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Local Government Service

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FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

EXAMINATION OF PRESENT TENDENCIES AND NEEDS

In connection with the Nalgo Summer School Essay Competition, the subject of the essay in Class I was: "What are your views as to the probable future development of Local Government, with special reference to present tendencies and present needs?" In this class the essays submitted by Mr. C. Kent Wright, B.A., Town Clerk of Stoke Newington, and Mr. W. J. Hunt, A.C.I.S., of the County Treasurer's Department, West Sussex, were bracketed for first place. The subject of the essay in Class II was: "To what extent and in what way are rates a burden?" The prize-winning essay in this class was that submitted by Mr. Dudley Childs, A.I.M.T.A., Borough Treasurer's Department, Torquay. Below we give a summary of Mr. Kent Wright's essay, and summaries of the other essays will be published in subsequent issues.

MR. KENT WRIGHT opens with a reference to the improvements which have been effected in local government administration during the past ten years. In spite of these, he points out, there are still many problems unsolved—"many tangled thickets in the great forest of local government, which have grown for so long unchecked with an almost tropical luxuriance and an equally tropical disorder, and which now have to be cleared." A new set of problems confronts us as a result of urban contraction in some places and unnatural urban expansion in others. In determining the areas for the various services, the administration of which has been entrusted to local authorities, there has, in the past, been a disregard of economic factors such as the development of industry, commerce and agriculture, and also of the migration from one area to another.

Regional Administration

The crux of the problem is whether we should continue to entrust all functions to the administration of existing authorities, or whether some of those functions should be transferred to other authorities more fitted to deal with them. The demand for a large-scale organisation of certain services is becoming more and more urgent. The following are cited as examples of services which can best be dealt with on a regional basis: water-supply, sewerage, refuse disposal, electricity and town planning.

The purpose of regional development would be not the supplanting of the existing authorities, but the creation of new forms and spheres of publicly-organised services in respect of functions which are more suitably administered over a wide area. The central departments should have the power of compelling the transfer of powers to the regional authority. On the other hand, the existing local authorities might be allowed to retain supervisory functions in relation to a particular service or group of services which are regionally administered by themselves appointing representatives to the regional body. Existing local authorities will have to concentrate their attention more on those services which may be classified generally under the term "amenity services," such as the provision of public swimming baths, parks and playing fields, open spaces, allotments and smallholdings, and zoning and reservation of land in their particular areas.

It seems apparent that as regards certain functions, such as town planning, electricity, land drainage, transport, water-supply, and main roads, the existing areas of local authorities are entirely unsuitable, and that the administration of these services will have to be transferred in the future from local authorities either to regional authorities or to some kind of commission. Those services on the other hand, which are mostly enjoyed by the inhabitants of a particular area and have only a limited effect on others outside it, should remain under the control of a limited territorial unit.

MR. C. KENT WRIGHT, B.A.
Town Clerk of Stoke Newington

It does not appear unreasonable for local authorities to ask to be freed from the meticulous supervision from central departments, which exists to-day. This does not imply that the machinery of central control should be completely dismantled. The central departments should retain functions of great importance in hearing and deciding upon appeals against administrative decisions; in setting the seal of independent approval on the soundness of schemes involving a large financial outlay, and in the collection and dissemination of information to local authorities. On the other hand, it is clearly not necessary for the central authority to duplicate the activities of the local authority—in the sphere of education, to take one glaring example—and to exercise the kind of control which would only be permissible if the local authority had no expert advisers of its own and was incapable of preparing adequate plans or schemes "off its own bat."

Mr. Kent Wright suggests that, in dealing with lax or recalcitrant authorities, the central departments should exercise their "default powers" more frequently in the next few years—particularly in the sphere of town and country planning. He proceeds to deal with various matters in connection with town and country planning, and suggests that a national survey might well be extended to other fields—to co-ordination of public utility services—a survey of water resources and drainage needs is particularly necessary; to the distribution and density of industries and their dependent population; to co-ordination of the various transport systems; and to the extent and location of "agricultural belts," of national reserves for recreation and the preservation of landscape beauty. Much of this is, of course, done in regional planning surveys, but such a survey should be carried out on a *national* scale in order to gain a true perspective of what Sir Basil Blackett has called "the all-togetherness of things"—of the way in which problems of local and central government are connected and inter-related.

Housing and Planning

The author then turns to the question of housing and town planning. For the next ten or twenty years, he suggests, we may expect to see local authorities, in co-operation with the Ministry of Health, concentrating on the problem of slum-clearance. The general housing need—the provision of new houses for persons other than those displaced under clearance and improvement schemes and the reconditioning of old houses to minimum standards prescribed by the government—can be met by a responsible building industry, with the co-operation of the building societies. If the problem of clearing the slums is to be satisfactorily dealt with, a national slum survey should be carried out, so that the facts may be nationally known and assessed, and the conditions which lead to the creation of slums may be fully explored.

Another urgent problem which must soon be faced concerns the future of the voluntary hospitals, nearly all of which are handicapped through lack of funds and some of which are on the verge of bankruptcy. In the words of Dr. T. W. Hill, "any system, however public

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FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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spirited, which is forced to depend on organised begging for its existence is a degrading system and ought to be abolished. Crude necessity demands state finance and local control. I think they (i.e., voluntary hospitals) will find it more expedient to throw in their lot with the local authority than to continue their hopeless struggle against insolvency."

The tradition of voluntary activity is woven into the framework of local government and social service in this country. It appears probable that the co-operation of voluntary enterprise in the field of local government will continue and increase.

Voluntary Service

Co-ordination is just as essential in the sphere of voluntary work as it is in connection with the services and functions already referred to. It has been achieved to a considerable extent by the excellent work of the National Council of Social Service, and of rural community councils. But there is still a considerable amount of overlapping in the work of voluntary organisations; and possibly during the next few years the desirability of co-ordinating the various organs of social action in each place and of linking them up with the "amenity services" of local authorities will receive wider recognition.

Another possibility of the next few years to which Mr. Kent Wright refers is that all percentage grants may be abolished, and that block grants may be substituted for them. Again, there is considerable dissatisfaction with our present rating system as a whole, and an even more drastic change is envisaged by those who suggest that a local income tax on the lines of the French or German system could be introduced in this country. The question of raising funds for local and imperial purposes is a matter which will have to be considered within the next generation in an effort to arrive at some method of assessing and distribution which will not only spread the burden of local taxation more equitably over the whole country, but will also eliminate many of the difficulties of assessing the liability for local rates and imperial taxes.

Mr. Kent Wright suggests that there does appear to be a case for inquiry whether the supersession of local rates by national income tax would not both remove existing injustices and, through stimulating new building, contribute towards a solution of the unemployment and slum clearance problems. It does appear that some system of assessment could be devised under which there would be a local collection, payment into a national pool and a central distribution on some specified basis, for example, population, without any elaborate formula such as that prescribed under the Local Government Act, 1929.

Internal Organisation

Another sphere in which, in the author's opinion, numerous changes will most certainly take place in the near future, is that of the internal organisation of local authorities. The precise form of those changes it is difficult to forecast, but it may be assumed that, even if some large authorities do not experiment with the "city manager" form of government which has made such strides during the last twenty years in the United States of America, both committees and councils will be reduced in size and a more scientific division of labour will be made between the elected member and the official. It is undeniable, for example, that a great amount of detailed routine work which is at present performed in committee could be delegated with advantage to the officials.

It may be suggested that the Ministry of Health might, in a purely hortatory manner, encourage local authorities to subject their internal organisation—their committee system and their standing orders—to periodic "overhauls" and to see that functions are distributed among their various committees in the most scientific way. In particular, where one authority has made some notable improvement in its administrative technique or internal organisation, some machinery might easily be devised for notifying other authorities who could profit by making a similar alteration in their methods of organisation.

Another way in which Mr. Kent Wright believes the internal organisation of local authorities is likely to be changed in the near future is in an extension of the principle of collective buying. Many large authorities have already adopted some system of central purchasing. But many councils are still content to carry on under old-fashioned methods and to allow different committees to purchase similar commodities at different prices.

Recruitment of Officers

Turning to the question of recruitment and training of local government officials, the author points out that the problem of creating a trained local government service is basic and urgent. While it does not appear possible to arrange for a national system of recruitment for local government services on similar lines to the Civil Service system, certain specified educational qualifications should be made compulsory for all junior entrants to the service, and, in the case of large authorities, periodical examinations (written and oral) for junior entrants should be arranged. Facilities for post-entry training should be increased, and officers encouraged to take diplomas in public administration or degrees, and if they are successful in doing so their success should be recognised.

Moreover, it should not be impossible to devise some scheme under which university graduates could enter the local government service in administrative positions. Two other alterations in connection with the personnel of local authorities do not appear to be impossible of fulfilment. In the first place there might be greater opportunities for officers to transfer from one department to another in the same local authority; secondly, arrangements might be made, particularly among the larger authorities, for officers in similar grades to move from one authority to another.

Clearly, difficulties would be encountered in arranging transfers from one authority to another. The matter would not be so easy as, say, the transfer of a clerk in the Inland Revenue Department from one district to another, for whereas departments of the Civil Service are homogeneous in character and virtually identical in the principles of their organisation, local authorities are dissimilar in size, power, structure and duties.

Whitley Councils Policy

Mr. Kent Wright refers to the policy agreed upon at the Annual Conference of N.A.L.G.O. this year, aiming at the establishment of a complete system of Whitley Councils and Committees with a view to the regulation of all matters of concern to local authorities and their staffs. He considers this a better method of approach to the subject than the alternative proposal made at the conference which demanded the establishment of national rates of remuneration and conditions of service on a system similar to that prevailing in the Civil Service. In many cases rigid standardisation could not possibly cover the large variety of circumstances existing among the whole body of local authorities throughout the country.

A condition precedent to the creation of a trained "municipal civil service" is the establishment of a compulsory national scheme for superannuation. This is more essential to-day than ever before because of the anomalous position created by the transfer of poor law officers to county councils or county

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SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

Superannuation

The Superannuation Act of 1922 has been adopted by The Lindsey County Council, on July 28; Borough of Luton, July 25; Haslemere U.D.C.

Service Conditions

Arising from an interview which the Divisional Secretary had with the Finance Committee of the Barnoldswick Urban District Council, the general staff have been graded, and granted 14 days' annual holiday in future instead of 7 days, which previously obtained.

A number of increases in salary have also been granted.

Following an application by the Association last May for reconsideration of the regulations as to payment of salary during absence through illness, the Breconshire County Council have adopted an improved scale, which provides for the payment of full salary, less any National Health Insurance benefit due, up to a maximum of thirteen weeks; the length of leave allowable at this rate is regulated by the officer's period of service.

The County Council have also introduced new Rules governing annual holidays, which will result in more generous leave than was granted under the old regulations.

Both schemes have been made retrospective to April 1, 1933.

Salary Deductions

Supplementing the information given in the July, 1932, and subsequent issues of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, the following further information in regard to salary deductions has been received:

Deductions Continued.—Warwickshire, Cirencester U.D.C.

Deductions Terminated.—Middlesex, Shropshire, Coventry, Kensington, Fulham, Westminster, Hornsey, Reigate (as from October 1, 1933), West Sussex C.C.

(*Continued from col. 2*)

boroughs which have not adopted the 1922 Act.

Leaving on one side the probable changes in connection with the personnel, the internal organisation and administration of local authorities, the most likely future developments in local government, in Mr. Kent Wright's opinion, may be summarised as follows:—

(1) An integration in central or regional bodies of large-scale functions.

(2) A greater degree of autonomy for local authorities in connection with services of a purely local character.

(3) A revision of the grant system—possibly a complete change in the existing system of rating.

(4) Finally, the application to local government of scientific principles of planning in the widest sense of the term—planning as to the most suitable division of services; planning as to future needs of development and future financial requirements; planning under the extended powers of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, of land, whether there are or are not buildings thereon, in such a way as to protect existing amenities, to promote traffic efficiency and to retain open spaces where desirable, so as to meet in the best manner possible the needs of the community.

All this implies a continual creative effort to adapt our existing system of local government in the light of modern needs.

"So, it may be hoped," the author concludes, "people will be enabled to live in towns and villages that are well planned and designed, free from slums, and equipped with adequate open spaces, parks and playing fields, and that, in the words of Robert Bridges:

> "'Our generation, sickened by the grime, of murky slums, slag heaps and sooty bushes, will plan garden cities and for her soilure make reddition to Nature, replanting the fair land which our industrial grandsires disafforested.'"

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SPECIAL REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE JULY MEETING

A CONSIDERABLE amount of business affecting the wide range of activities of the Association was disposed of at the meeting of the National Executive Council, which was held at the headquarters of the Association on July 22. Mr. W. W. Armitage presided, and others present were: Mr. C. G. Brown (president); Dr. A. Wotherspoon and Mr. G. W. Coster (vice-presidents); Mr. W. E. Lloyd (hon. treasurer); Mr. P. H. Harrold (hon. solicitor for England); Mrs. G. Franks, Messrs. H. Allen, A. G. M. Archibald, W. G. Auger, J. T. Baker, H. Begg, A. G. Bolton, J. Chaston, F. R. Finch, T. Freeman, J. E. Gee, V. Grainger, F. W. Greenhalgh, D. L. Griffiths, A. M. Imrie, G. Llewellyn, M. O. McAuliffe, D. J. Parry, A. Pinches, C. A. W. Roberts, E. H. Scarlett, J. W. Singleton, G. A. Stone, A. Webb, W. H. Whinnerah, J. W. Wilkinson, together with Mr. L. Hill (general secretary); Mr. John Simonds (legal secretary); Mr. W. P. Fox (organising secretary); and other principal officers of the staff. Letters regretting inability to attend were received from Messrs. S. Lord, F. J. Willett and H. S. Newton.

Fraternal Delegates

It was reported that at a meeting of Chairmen of Committees, held on April 29, a request was submitted from the Institute of Public Cleansing that the Association should be officially represented at its Annual Conference at Edinburgh from June 12 to 16. The committee decided to request Mr. H. Begg to represent the Association at that conference, and he had stated that he received a very warm welcome and that the delegates attending the conference were very gratified to know that the Association was officially represented.

A request had been received from the Sanitary Inspectors' Association that N.A.L.G.O. should be represented at its forty-sixth Annual Conference, to be held at Clacton from September 4 to 9. The vice-chairman of the National Executive Council (Mr. W. W. Armitage) and the general secretary were appointed to attend.

The Emergency Sub-committee reported that they had given careful consideration to Ministry of Health Circular 1311, dated March 22, 1933, issued to local authorities in England and Wales on the subject of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Local Expenditure (England and Wales) and issued a circular letter (No. 34, dated April 21, 1933) to branches in connection therewith.

Public Relations Committee

It was decided that a Public Relations Committee be formed, comprising the president, Mr. S. Lord, Mr. P. H. Harrold, and Mr. W. E. Lloyd.

It was announced that Sir William Jenkins, M.P., had agreed to act for the Association in Parliament along with Sir Henry Jackson, M.P., and Mr. Isaac Foot, M.P.

The following resolution, passed by the South-Western District Committee, was submitted: "That in view of the fact that the financial crisis has now passed, the Budget has been balanced and conditions in the country are on the up grade, the National Executive Council be asked to ascertain from the Ministry of Health whether they would be prepared to issue a circular letter to the various local authorities on the question of the restoration of the cuts in salaries of local government officers."

The resolution was referred to the Law and Parliamentary Committee.

Benevolent and Orphan Fund

The Benevolent and Orphan Fund Committee reported that Mr. H. S. Newton had been appointed chairman, and Mr. M. O. McAuliffe vice-chairman of the committee for the year 1933–34.

It was reported that the committee had resolved that the special sub-committee, consisting of the chairman, vice-chairman and Messrs. J. Darricotte and C. W. Durley, be requested to consider the question of making grants to widows; and that the Finance and General Purposes Committee be requested to give consideration to the recommendation of the West Midland Regional Committee, in conjunction with the reference from the Annual Conference, relating to the question of the provision of pensions to widows of local government officers.

It was also reported that the special sub-committee appointed to discuss with the Nalgo Approved Society Sub-committee the desirability of establishing a Convalescent Home on the South Coast, hoped to be in a position to submit a report on the matter to the Committee of Management at its next meeting.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee reported that Mr. J. Chaston had been appointed chairman and Mr. C. A. W. Roberts vice-chairman of the committee for the year 1933-34.

Messrs. J. Chaston, F. R. Finch and C. A. W. Roberts had been appointed as the panel of assessors to consider the marks obtained by candidates in the N.A.L.G.O. examinations during the year 1933-34.

Messrs. J. Chaston, F. R. Finch, C. A. W. Roberts and F. J. Willett had been appointed to represent the Association on the Poor Law Examinations Board for the year 1933-34.

In connection with the examinations of the Association held on May 18, 19 and 20, the following return was submitted showing the number of candidates on this occasion compared with those at the previous examination and with the examination held last year.

Grade	*May 1933*	*January 1933*	*Total for 1933*	*Total for 1932*
Preliminary ..	98	42	140	225
Intermediate ..	80	31	111	95
Final	11	8	19	16
	189	81	270	336

The number of entries in the intermediate and final grades on this occasion is the highest on record. The assessors had considered the marks obtained by candidates, and the following is a summary of the results which have been communicated to the candidates:

Grade	*Passed* No.	Per cent.	*Referred in certain subjects* No.	Per cent.	*Failed* No.	Per cent.	*Total*
Preliminary	27	27.5	28	28.6	43	43.9	98
Intermediate	41	51.25	23	28.75	16	20	80
Final ..	10	90.9	—	—	1	9.1	11

The secretary of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants had written that the Council of the Institute had approved a recommendation of the Examinations and Membership Committee that the preliminary examination of N.A.L.G.O. should be recognised for the purpose of admission to the intermediate examination of the Institute, provided a candidate passed in all subjects of the examination at one sitting. This decision applies to candidates taking the examination in or after January, 1933.

Educational Loans Scheme

On the reference from the annual conference concerning the question of loans for educational facilities, the committee reported that they had considered a draft scheme for submission to the annual conference in 1934, and having made observations on various points, it had been resolved that further consideration be given to the draft scheme at the next meeting of the Education Committee.

In connection with the scholarships scheme it was reported that the assessors had nominated the following for the awards in connection with the N.A.L.G.O. examinations:

	Name	*Department*	*Local Authority*
Exhibition	H. Silcock.	Engineer's.	Southport and District Water Board.
Scholarship	H. M. Cleare.	Electricity and Tramways.	East Ham County Borough.
Prize	F. B. Church	County Clerk's.	Kent C.C.

The committee had resolved that the principle of applying the Association's scholarships to preparation for the external diploma in public administration at the University of London be approved; and that an exhibition to the value of £20 be instituted in connection with the examinations of the Library Association in view of the fact that the syllabus of this association now contains an intermediate examination.

A return showed that 264 students had enrolled with the Nalgo Correspondence Institute from January 1 to June 30, 1933, as compared with 258 in the corresponding period of 1932. Education correspondents have now been appointed by 208 branches, which is an increase of twenty-two since the last meeting of the Education Committee.

A report was submitted of the meeting of Education Correspondents in attendance at the Association's annual conference on June 3 when there was general discussion on the educational activities of the Association and possible development. Mr. H. Russell, the Education Correspondent for Stockport, put forward a proposal that headquarters of the Association might prepare a list of members who are able and willing to give lectures on subjects in which they have special experience and expert knowledge. It was resolved that early intimation be forwarded to all branches of the proposal to hold a meeting of education correspondents (or specially appointed deputies) to the annual conference next year.

SERVICE CONDITIONS

The Service Conditions and Organisation Committee reported that Mr. J. W. Wilkinson had been appointed chairman, and Mr. W. W. Armitage vice-chairman of the committee for the year 1933-34.

On the reference from the annual conference: "that the National Executive Council be requested to adopt a definite policy with regard to eligibility for membership," the committee had resolved that a questionnaire, to be drafted by the chairman of the committee and the General Secretary, be sent to each branch on the question, and that a report on the replies received be submitted to the next meeting of the committee.

The sub-committee on the Recruitment and Training of Nurses reported that they had submitted a memorandum to the Joint Committee of the County Councils Association and the Association of Municipal Corporations on the subject of their reference.

Consideration had been given to the motion passed at the annual conference on the subject of a complete system of Whitley Councils. It had been resolved that district committees be urged to introduce the subject of Whitleyism at their meetings with a view to educating the members on the advantages to be derived therefrom, and that they be requested to submit reports on progress to the National Executive Council; and that the Standing Joint Committee be informed of the action which has been and is being taken on the question.

It was reported that the number of visits made by members of the staff during a period of eighteen weeks was:

311 meetings with branches or to form branches (239).

915 interviews in towns and districts (934).

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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48 interviews with local authorities—deputations, etc. (40).
20 meetings of, or concerning, Provincial Whitley Councils (20).
(The figures in brackets refer to a period of sixteen weeks last year.)

FINANCE

The Finance and General Purposes Committee reported that Mr. A. Pinches had been appointed chairman and Mr. A. G. M. Archibald, vice-chairman of the committee for the year 1933-34.

The committee reported that they had given consideration to the reference from annual conference "that the National Executive Council be instructed to obtain an actuarial report of the cost of providing pensions to widows of local government officers at a rate equal to one-third of the superannuation allowance which the officer would be entitled to at the date of his death—such report to cover (*a*) cases of officers dying prior to retirement; and (*b*) cases of officers dying after retirement; and the report to include such conditions as may be necessary to ensure as low a cost as possible; and that after consideration of the actuarial report the National Executive Council be instructed to obtain the opinions of branches on the question." Further consideration of the matter had been deferred until the next meeting of the committee.

N.E.C. Representation

Considerable discussion took place at the National Executive Council meeting on the following resolution adopted at the annual conference: "That the rules and constitution be amended so as to provide that each district in England and Wales with a membership of 2,500 and over shall have not less than two representatives on the National Executive Council (including representatives elected under Rule 51), and if two representatives have not been so elected, the unsuccessful candidate with the highest number of votes shall be deemed to be elected." As reported in the August issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, the council decided to give immediate effect to the alteration of Rule 51, and the following were deemed to be elected and become representatives on the National Executive Council for the districts named: North-Eastern District: Mr. F. Bingham, Chief Assistant Rating and Valuation Officer, Middlesbrough C.B.; East Midland District: Mr. A. B. Day, Surveyor, Nottingham C.B.; South-Eastern District: Mr. J. Moss, Public Assistance Officer, Kent C.C.; Southern District: Mr. F. V. Merriman, Chief Education Officer, Reading C.B.; South-Western District: Mr. E. J. Stead, County Surveyor, Somerset C.C. South Wales and Monmouthshire District does not acquire an additional member under the new section of the rule as there was only one candidate nominated and he was returned unopposed.

The committee had also considered the following reference from the annual conference: "That the National Executive Council be requested to consider the adoption of a scheme designed to afford assistance towards hospital or nursing homes' treatment, particularly for those members and their dependents who at present are outside the scope of existing hospital aid societies." Further consideration had been deferred until the October meeting of the committee.

At the annual conference at Folkestone, Rule 9—subscriptions—was amended by the deletion of the last section and the substitution of the following therefor: "The percentage of the total amount collected in subscriptions during each year to be retained by branches shall be as follows: County branches, when recommended by the District Committee of the area, 40 per cent; all other branches, 35 per cent." Following consideration of a letter from the secretary of a branch who inquired whether the retention of 40 per cent by country branches also applied to rural branches, the committee had resolved that (*a*) district committees be requested to take into consideration the question of branches covering large rural areas when they are considering the applications from county branches; (*b*) that the district committees be requested carefully to survey the expenditure and programme of propaganda which it is intended to carry out with the increased rebate.

POOR LAW TRANSFERRED OFFICERS

The Poor Law Transferred Officers' Committee reported that it had appointed Mr. F. W. Greenhalgh as chairman, and Mr. C. A. W. Roberts as vice-chairman of the committee for the year 1933-34.

Further developments regarding reductions of salaries of the public assistance staff of the Rochdale Corporation on account of the national financial situation were reported.

Attention was called to the fact that on March 7 last Mr. Crooke, M.P., asked the Minister of Labour in the House of Commons whether he was aware that some county and county borough councils had not increased the pay of their relief staffs for the extra work and responsibility in connection with the duties consequent upon the operation of the Unemployment Insurance (National Economy) (No. 2) Order, 1931, in connection with transitional payments, and whether he would take steps, under the provisions of paragraph 6 of the Order, to ensure that the local authorities concerned award the officers affected reasonable remuneration for this work.

Captain Austin Hudson (Lord of the Treasury), who replied, said: "This is a matter within the discretion of local authorities in whose service these officers are. My right honourable Friend has no reason to believe that authorities generally are not fully aware of his powers under the Order in Council to approve for reimbursement additional expenditure incurred by them in the administration of the Order."

In view of this reply, the divisional secretary had been asked to make representations to the Durham County Public Assistance Committee, urging them to apply to the Minister of Labour for a grant for the purpose of remunerating the staff of the Public Assistance Department of the County Council for the additional work which had been done by them in connection with the transitional payments under the Unemployment Insurance Scheme.

Institutional Staffs

A report had been received by the Poor Law Transferred Officers' Committee from a sub-committee with reference to scales of salaries and conditions of service of institutional and nursing staffs. The sub-committee stated that it had given very careful consideration to various documents relating to the matter, and that it had approved the revised draft scales of salaries and conditions of service of institutional and nursing staffs. The committee had given authority for these scales and conditions to be circulated to the district committees for their observations.

Two cases in which the superannuation rights of transferred officers were involved and in which writs had been issued against the local authorities concerned were subjects of report. In connection with a further case an appeal had been forwarded to the Ministry of Health on behalf of a member whose compensation for loss of office had been assessed without addition of years in accordance with the Civil Service Acts and Rules in operation on August 13, 1888.

Representations had been made jointly by the Association and the National Association of Administrators of Local Government Establishments in a case in which it was claimed that encroachments had been made on the authority and status of Masters of Public Assistance Institutions. The Ministry had also been asked to receive a joint deputation from the two associations to discuss a memorandum which they had sent to the department.

The case of an officer who claimed a superannuation allowance on fees paid for acting as a returning officer at elections had been considered. The fees had not been regarded as salary or wages and emoluments for the purposes of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, and no contribution had been made, but the Minister of Health decided that the officer was entitled to receive from the corporation and county council concerned a superannuation allowance of £127 2s. 8d. in respect of the fees, subject to the payment of a sum equal to the contributions which should have been made under the Act of 1896 by the officer. The county council agreed to pay their share of the superannuation allowance, but the corporation had declined, and in view of this the Association's solicitors had been instructed to commence legal proceedings.

Infant Protection Visitors

A member of the Association who is an officer of a county council had received from the Clerk of the Council a letter as follows: "I am directed to inform you that your appointment as inspector under Part I of the Children Act, 1908, will terminate on March 31 next. As you are no doubt aware, the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, requires that this work should devolve upon the Health Visitor. The Committee, have, therefore, no alternative but to make these changes."

In a letter to the Ministry of Health the Association stated: "There would not appear to be any provision in the above Act which requires a county council to terminate the appointments of existing Infant Protection Visitors and to appoint the Health Visitors of the council to those posts. I appreciate that in view of the amendment of Section 2 (2) of the Children Act, 1908, made by the Second Schedule to the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, at least one of the Infant Protection Visitors must be a woman, and that, where there is only one such visitor, she must be a woman, but I should be glad if you will let me know the views of the Minister as to whether it is necessary to dispense with the services of a male Infant Protection Visitor in any case where it is not essential that a woman shall be appointed to the post."

The Ministry replied as follows: "I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to your letters of March 10 and 31 and to state that the Second Schedule to the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, provides that at least one of the Infant Protection Visitors of each authority, or of the persons authorised to act as such, must be a woman, and that, subject to compliance with this requirement, the Minister cannot undertake to express an opinion on the question of dispensing with the services of particular officers as Infant Life Protection Visitors, which is a matter for the local authority concerned."

The officer in question had been advised to submit to the county council a claim for compensation for loss of his office of Infant Protection Visitor.

It was reported that, as a result of steps taken by the Divisional Secretary (Mr. J. E. N. Davies), two members of the staff of Erdington House, Birmingham, who had been given one month's salary in lieu of notice following an inquiry, had been re-instated. (The case was reported in the July issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, page 194). An expression of the committee's appreciation had been conveyed to Mr. Davies.

Superannuation

Two officers who were in the service of the Manchester Board of Guardians on November 12, 1928, and also on April 1, 1930, were by Section 119 of the Local Government Act, 1929, transferred to and became officers of the Manchester Corporation on the latter date. Prior to transfer, both officers had been contributing under the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896. Each officer had a previous period of service under the Manchester Guardians, at the end of which his superannuation contributions had been returned to him under Section 8 of the Act of 1896, but on later re-joining the service of the Manchester Guardians he had not repaid the amount of the superannuation contributions previously refunded to him. Because the officers had not repaid the contributions referred to, the Manchester Corporation did not regard them as transferred officers under the Act of 1929 whose superannuation rights were preserved by Section 124 of that Act. Neither officer had elected to remain subject to the provisions of the Superannuation Act of 1896, and the corporation deducted superannuation contributions from the officers' salaries and emoluments at the rate of 5 per cent under the Manchester corporation's superannuation scheme and not at the rate of £2 11s. per cent, that being the rate payable by them if they were treated as transferred officers whose superannuation rights had been preserved by Section 124 of the Act of 1929.

As a result of the representations made by the Association, the corporation had agreed that the two officers were entitled to contribute to the corporation's superannuation scheme at the rate of £2 11s. per cent, in accordance with the provisions of the amending scheme made by the corporation under Section 124 (2) (*b*) of the Local Government Act, 1929.

PUBLICATIONS AND RECREATIONS

The Publications and Recreations Committee had received a report from the Croyde Bay Holiday Camp sub-committee in respect of various domestic matters and arrangements concerning the camp.

The question of the ability of the Association to trade had been raised by the general secretary at a meeting of the Cayton Bay sub-committee. Mr. Hill had stated that they were up against many difficulties in connection with the Thrift Scheme which had been taken over from the Metropolitan District Committee, and he suggested that as the scheme was so highly appreciated by thousands of members it would be wise to put it upon a proper basis and register it under the appropriate Act of Parliament. If that were done, all trading activities could be executed, including camp trading, Thrift Scheme, Travel Bureau, Diaries, Sales of articles in Nalgo colours and Holiday Guides, without treading upon anyone's toes. The sub-committee resolved that the report of the general secretary should be submitted to the Publications and Recreations Committee with a recommendation that it should go to the National Executive Council with a scheme on the lines suggested. The Publications and Recreations Committee resolved that such a society should be established, to be known as the "Local Government Officers Supply Association, Ltd.," and that, subject to minor drafting alterations, the suggested rules as submitted be approved; also that the first Committee of Management should comprise Messrs. W. G. Auger, J. T. Baker, D. L. Griffiths, P. H. Harrold, W. E. Lloyd, S. Lord, J. W. Singleton and F. J. Willett.

The committee reported that, acting upon the resolution that the north-western members should continue to investigate the possibilities of the provision of a holiday home in the area, Messrs. Willett, Wilkinson, Whinnerah, Freeman, Gee and Singleton visited three estates. It was resolved that the question of establishing a camp and/or guest house in the north-western area be deferred for a period of six months.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(*Continued from preceding page*)

LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY

The report of the Law and Parliamentary Committee stated that Mr. P. H. Harrold had been appointed chairman, and Mr. D. L. Griffiths vice-chairman of the committee for the year 1933-34.

It had been resolved that a circular letter be sent to branches calling attention to the necessity for officers claiming compensation for loss of office or diminution of salary or emoluments under statutes like the Local Government Act, 1929, to submit to the compensating authority a claim which fully complied with the requirements of the particular statute.

Reports were submitted on a large number of cases which had been taken up on behalf of members.

Association's Property

The committee reported that the National Executive Council, at its meeting on March 18, 1933, had resolved: "That it be referred to the Law and Parliamentary Committee to report as to any amendment of the rules in relation to the property of the Association or matters incidental thereto which it may deem desirable." This resolution was passed in consequence of questions which were raised at the meeting referred to as to the powers of the Council in dealing with investments and securities.

By Rule 64 the property and effects of the Association can only be dealt with by or according to the order and direction of a conference, but Rule 66 provides that any moneys of the Association for the time being requiring investment may be invested in the names of the trustees, etc., as the Council may think fit, or in such manner as directed by a conference. By Rule 68 it is provided that, subject to the rules, all moneys, funds and securities belonging to the Association may be dealt with pursuant to resolution of the Council. The following is an extract from the judgment of Langdale, M.R., in *Jones* v. *Skinner*, 5 L.J.ch.90. "It is well-known that 'property' is the most comprehensive of all terms which can be used, inasmuch as it is indicative and descriptive of every possible interest which the party can have." The committee pointed out that Rules 66 and 68 are, therefore, a contradiction of Rule 64. It had been resolved to recommend the National Executive Council to give the following notices of motion to the Annual Conference, 1934:

(i) "That Rule 64 of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended as follows: Insert the word 'the' after the word 'in' in line 2 of the rule. Delete the words 'for the use and benefit of the members' from line 2 of the rule. Insert the words 'except as otherwise provided by these rules' after the second 'and' in line 2 of the rule."

(ii) "That Rule 66 of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended as follows: Delete the words 'as the trustees' from lines 2 and 3 of the rule."

The recommendation was adopted.

Tenure of Office

Consideration had been given to the following reference from Conference:

That this Conference regrets that further progress has not been made towards presenting to Parliament the Bill referred to in paragraph 85 of the report of the National Executive Council presented to Conference in 1932, and that the Council be instructed to proceed with the matter without delay.

The committee submitted the following report on the subject: "The Bill referred to in paragraph 85 of the 1932 report was one drafted on behalf of the Association to amend the law so as to provide that, notwithstanding the provisions of Section 189 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and other analogous enactments empowering local authorities to dismiss their officers at pleasure, it shall be competent for local authorities to enter into contracts with their officers providing for reasonable notice of termination of any such contract on either side, and for such contract to be binding on both parties.

"This Bill is no longer necessary in view of the statement in Part IV of the Interim Report of the Local Government and Public Health Consolidation Committee that that committee had considered it within their terms of reference to give effect to the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Local Government (Final Report, para. 471), and to remedy the defect in the law to which attention was called in the case of *Brown* v, *Dagenham Urban District Council* (1929) 1 K.B.737.

"Clause 120 of the draft Local Government Bill issued with the Interim Report provides that, notwithstanding any provision in this or any other enactment that a person holding any office shall hold the office during the pleasure of the local authority, there may be included in the terms on which that person holds the office a provision that the appointment shall not be terminated by either party without giving to the other party such reasonable notice as may be agreed.' This clause does, in fact, do what the draft Bill mentioned in paragraph 85 of the 1932 report aimed at doing.

Position of Existing Officers

"Some misunderstanding has apparently been caused by the statement in paragraph 73 of the Interim Report that Clause 120 of the draft Bill will not affect existing officers. This obviously must be taken to mean that the clause will not *adversely* affect existing officers; but existing officers who now hold office at the pleasure of the appointing authority can be brought within the ambit of the clause and have their tenure improved by the terms of their appointments being altered so as to provide for notice to terminate the appointments. The Bill issued by the Local Government and Public Health Consolidation Committee has already been introduced in the House of Lords and referred to a committee of both Houses of Parliament.

"It was further reported that Clause 120 of the Local Government Bill had been passed by the Joint Committee of both Houses to which the Bill had been referred."

A report was submitted on the progress of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation (Temporary Provisions) Bill which has now passed into law. It was stated that the Bill was found to be far better than was anticipated from the draft headings for the Bill originally issued by the Ministry. Having regard to the great difficulties which the Minister had to overcome, the members of the Association had every reason to be grateful to him for the manner in which he had endeavoured to meet the points put forward on their behalf.

It was resolved that letters be sent to the following Members of Parliament conveying to them the committee's very great appreciation of all they had done with the object of improving this Bill and securing its early passage: Mr. Dingle Foot, Mr. Isaac Foot, the Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood, Sir Henry Jackson and Sir William Jenkins.

Compulsory Superannuation

The committee had considered the reference from Conference to the effect, *inter alia*, that the Government be asked to introduce a measure giving compulsory superannuation to all local government officers. It had been resolved that the Association's solicitors and parliamentary agents be instructed to draft a Bill and that copies of the three resolutions passed by the Annual Conference, 1933, on the subject be forwarded to the Ministry of Health. It had been further resolved that a superannuation sub-committee be appointed to consider and

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(*Continued from page 239*)

report on the provisions which the proposed Private Superannuation Bill to be promoted on behalf of the Association should contain, and that the following be appointed to be members of the sub-committee: Messrs. C. G. Brown, G. S. Fraser, T. Freeman, F. R. Finch, D. L. Griffiths, P. H. Harrold, W. E. Lloyd, S. Lord and D. J. Parry.

The committee submitted a report of the proceedings at a deputation from the Association to the Ministry of Health on certain superannuation questions. The deputation was received by Mr. H. W. S. Francis, principal assistant secretary, and Mr. C. B. R. Ellis, on April 4. The deputation consisted of Mr. C. G. Brown, then chairman of the Law and Parliamentary Committee, and Mr. P. H. Harrold, the honorary solicitor for England, accompanied by the legal secretary.

Designation of Posts

The deputation called attention to the fact that an urban district council had recently adopted the Superannuation Act of 1922, but had designated for the purposes of the Act only the officers and workmen of the Council who were under the age of 55 at the appointed day. The result was that one officer and two workmen who are over 55 are excluded from the scheme. While it was admitted that legally the Council could designate what posts they liked, it was urged that the action taken by the Council was contrary to the spirit of the Act.

The deputation also called attention to the fact that a corporation which had adopted a substituted superannuation scheme under Section 24 of the Act of 1922 as from June 30, 1930, had designated a large number of posts as established posts for the purposes of the Act as from the date in 1930. The list of designated posts had been sent to the Ministry for the Minister's approval, but had been returned by the department because the numbers of each post designated had not been given. Since then the corporation had taken no steps in the matter, with the result that no posts had been designated.

The officers who had been contributing under the Corporation Superannuation Acts prior to June 30, 1930, and who had been transferred to the substituted scheme, were contributing, and during the discussion which took place it was agreed that, as the scheme provided that every contributor under any of the earlier superannuation schemes under the Corporation Acts should be deemed to occupy a post designated as an established post for the purposes of the Act of 1922, such contributors were adequately safeguarded, but it was pointed out that, as the posts held by such contributors had not been designated, the result was that as vacancies occurred and new appointments were made, the holders of the new appointments were not being called upon to make contributions under the Act of 1922, although from time to time, in advertising the vacancies, the advertisement had set forth that the appointment would be subject to the Superannuation Act of 1922. According to information which had been furnished to the Association, about 250 posts which had been subject to superannuation prior to June 30, 1930, had become vacant since that date and the persons appointed were not contributing for superannuation.

The deputation further called attention to the fact that, apart from the persons appointed to the above-mentioned vacancies, about 400 other persons had been appointed since June 30, 1930, to permanent posts under the corporation without being brought within the superannuation scheme under the Act of 1922.

The Ministry's Request

Mr. Francis asked the deputation to obtain and supply him with particulars of as many cases as possible of persons who had been appointed since June 30, 1930, to posts which had previously been subject to superannuation and who were not being required to make superannuation contributions, although the advertisement of such appointment had stated that the appointment would be subject to the Superannuation Act. On receipt of this information Mr. Francis intimated that probably the Ministry would make an official investigation of the matter.

Local Government Bill, 1933

The Association had been invited by the Ministry of Health to submit to the department its observations on the provisions of the Local Government Bill, 1933, as to compensation for loss of office, etc., and the Law and Parliamentary Committee submitted to the National Executive Council a copy of the memorandum containing the Association's observations which was sent to the Ministry on April 19, 1933; a copy of the Ministry's reply to the observations dated May 27; and also a copy of the Association's further observations sent to the Ministry on May 31.

A report was submitted on the action taken with a view to the protection of the interests of officers affected by the proposed scheme for the merger of the Brighton Corporation Tramway undertaking with the Brighton and District Omnibus undertaking of Messrs. Thomas Tilling, Ltd., and it was stated that agreement had been reached to safeguard the officers of the Corporation Tramways department. The National Executive Council expressed appreciation of the services which had been rendered in the matter by Mr. J. H. Rothwell, town clerk of Brighton. Mr. Webb also expressed the thanks of the Brighton officers to headquarters of the Association for their invaluable assistance in this case.

Since the meeting of the Law and Parliamentary Committee on January 14 last, decisions had been given on four compensation appeals which had been made under the Local Government Act, 1929, by the Minister of Health. As a result, the annual compensation allowances of officers had been increased by the following amounts: £8 14s. od.; £36 8s. od.; £134 19s. 6d.; and £8 4s. 9d.

Since the last meeting of the committee the following cases had been dealt with at headquarters: compensation for loss of office or emoluments, 64; conditions of service of transferred officers, 11; superannuation, 50; general legal questions (other than the particular cases referred to in the committee's report), 53.

BUILDING SOCIETY

The Nalgo Building Society Committee reported that 3,645 members had been enrolled for paid-up and partly paid-up shares since the inception of the Society.

A statement of receipts and payments for the period from January 1 to June 28, 1933, showed that loans on mortgage amounted to £283,424. The total of loans authorised was £368,227. Estimated interest receivable at December 31, 1933, was £11,546 1s. 2d., while the estimated interest payable on shares and deposits (including tax) amounted to £9,802 9s. 6d.

STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE

A report was submitted concerning the proceedings at a meeting of the Standing Joint Committee held on July 22.

The committee had decided that the Law and Parliamentary Committee be recommended to seek an amendment of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, to provide that, unless there is special reason to the contrary, where a technical or professional officer enters the service after the age of 18 or 20 years, years of service, not exceeding ten, should be added in computing the pensions of such officers.

The National Executive Council was requested to prepare a memorandum setting out a full case for Whitleyism for distribution to branches and the sectional and professional organisations represented on the Standing Joint Committee.

WHAT READERS SAY

"UNITY IS STRENGTH"

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—There are still some local government officers who are not members of the National Association. Can it be that the subscription is alarming? Hardly; for the fee payable is strictly in accordance with the salary earned and can be paid at so much per month without any loss of dignity or benefit. While benefits accrue to the whole local government service through the activities of N.A.L.G.O., it is hardly British to accept those benefits without subscribing to the funds. The ideal to be aimed at is: every local government officer of every class and grade a member of the National Association of Local Government Officers. Then will be realised the great truth of the copy book maxim: "Unity is Strength."

Yours, etc.,

E. S. (Rochdale).

* * *

"ECONOMY" POLICY

To the Editor,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—From Mr. Scott's letter, one gathers that he is in favour of an extension of public enterprise. He speaks of the fallacy of economics of "private enterprise," and even goes so far as to say that the present system has served its purpose, and now presents a "menace to the function of the organism—and should be removed as speedily as possible."

This being so, how can Mr. Scott declare himself in agreement with Mr. McDevitt, who quite definitely rules out any political aspect? Surely, the abandonment of one system in favour of another constitutes a political issue!

The issue actually raised by Mr. McDevitt in the first place, however, was whether Nalgo had adopted the correct policy from 1931 onward. Should Nalgo have supported the "put-the-nation-on-its-feet" policy, with its resultant acceptance of wage cuts, or should it have taken a firm stand against any attacks on its members?

Was the upheaval of 1931 a genuine crisis, or was it just a gigantic piece of bluff to take money out of some people's pockets to put it into others?

These are the relevant questions, and though the spectre of the crisis may seem a thing of the past, its touch is still to be felt in many places. Liverpool is still suffering the full "sacrifice"; in Salford, a new attack is even now being prepared, and ominous storm clouds are hanging over the Manchester members, threatening to break at any moment.

Is Nalgo going to be content with appeals to reason, or is it going to declare itself as definitely opposed to economy "tosh," or any other device for reducing earnings?

Yours, etc.,

"THREE MANCHESTER MEMBERS."

CONGRATULATIONS

The congratulations of the Association are due to the following members of the Wallasey Branch.

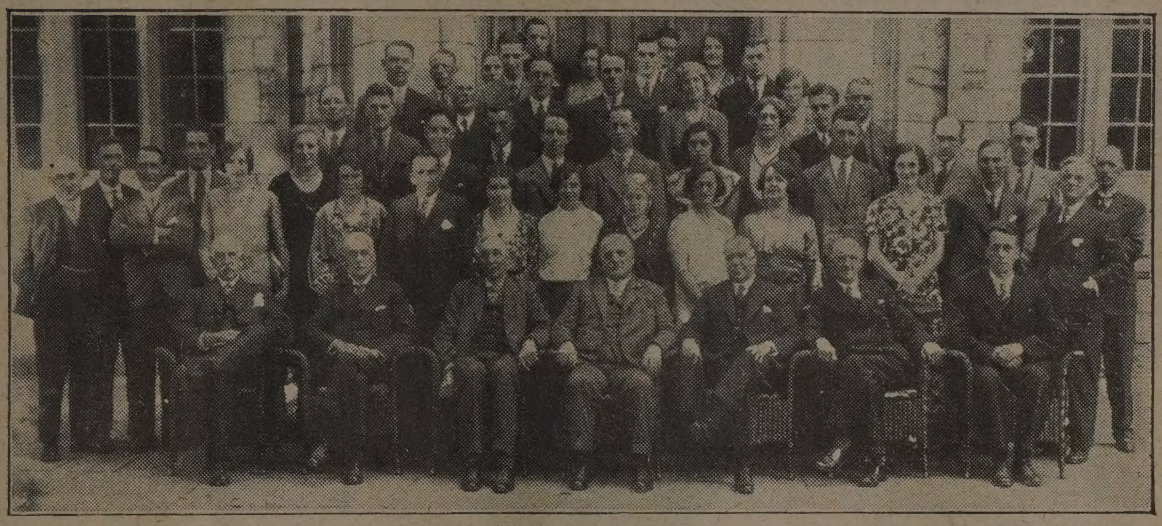
Mr. J. Finlay, Baths Superintendent, on his appointment as president of the N.W. District of the Association of Baths Superintendents.

Mr. R. C. Thomson, Cleansing Superintendent, on his appointment as hon. secretary of the N.W. Centre of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

Mr. L. St. G. Wilkinson, M.C., M.Sc., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, on his appointment as chairman of the N. W. Branch of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers

IMPRESSIONS OF THE SUMMER SCHOOLS

NALGO STUDENTS DESCRIBE THEIR EXPERIENCES



A Group at the Opening of the Scottish Summer School at St. Andrews

By F. J. G. OFFORD

LOOKING back, the strangeness and novelty are only now beginning to strike me; and I am marvelling at the charm of the surroundings which enabled all temperaments to brush aside comprehensively all difficulties and enter upon parties with enthusiasm and intimacy normally only arising out of years of friendship. Indeed, these alfresco parties, formed as they were on the spur of the moment—based upon the desire for enjoyment, were distinct attractions, for it was in the progress of them that each member discovered who was who at the School.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to describe the amazing magic of meeting Nalgo-ites from all over England. As a place of interest, for instance, Hackney never occupied my thoughts, and Finsbury, to be perfectly frank, was, well, just Finsbury; Liverpool, too, always left me "cold," and as for Leeds—why, I had never considered that it was a subject for poetry, so I merely dismissed it with a smile. But when I came across the outward and visible manifestations of those seemingly unromantic spots on the map, I found myself enjoying an experience which one could not afford to miss in any circumstances. In the space of an evening, all the heterogeneous exhalations of English towns had mingled, not in a concordat, but in genuine concordance.

The Inquiring Mind

Candidly, I went to Oxford with an inquiring mind, and one of my secret research problems was the cause of the Oxford Boat-race Complex, for which neither the Oxford accent nor Oxford bags can be called to account. The ample accommodation placed at the disposal of each student developed a line of thought having a quantity basis, and from this I was diverted by a reference that Oxford was the home for all lost causes. At the time of my departure, I was still engaged on the elucidation of the implications of the Oxford Movement, and private predilections induce me to discern in it a sign of revolt against this depressing complex.

As a pastime, Parsons Pleasure proved to be a kind of Turkish delight to most male students, and it could not have enjoyed greater popularity than if it had been a free bathing place situated in the heart of Aberdeen. The reason was obvious to all those who attended the Summer School, and is succinctly attributed to an old university custom; further particulars may be obtained by attending the School on the next occasion it is held at Oxford.

The question of the admission of university graduates to the local government service aroused some discussion, although there was a polite admonition from Dr. Jennings that he was dealing with the subject from the point of view of the community. An obstinate little problem has crystallised in my mind on this matter. Assuming A and B to be both of the same age : A enters the local government service and B enters a university. Two or three years later B will (under the scheme for allowing university students to compete for a suitable post) come into competition with A, and A, exercising the same intelligence in his private affairs as he does in his public duties, prepares himself for this competition. He has to decide whether it is worth while acquiring professional qualification and then with this qualification take his chance. Normally, that would be the course he would pursue. Since, however, he has to meet the praise lavished on a university diploma or degree as indicative of intellectual ability, it is quite probable, and easily understandable, that A will wish to put the matter beyond doubt. What should the council's choice be when A and B come before them, both similarly equipped with an academic distinction with the difference that A obtained his externally and is, therefore, already a trusted member of the staff whose value is known?

The mock council provided a fine opportunity for the explosion of spirits which had been soaring ever since the inaugural dinner. Wit was mixed with debate to general satisfaction. "Take the gentleman on my left for a pig," said one speaker, discussing the proposal for a centralised slaughter-house. "A lamb, if you like," begged the said gentleman anxiously, "but not a pig." The height of excitement and interruption was soon reached. Mr. Dingle Foot's iconoclastic speech was awaited impatiently by the council, but he gave such an unsparing encomium of the services rendered by the staff that it was abundantly clear that, instead of the motion being that the work of the council be handed over to "private enterprise," it should have been amended to "the staff" or, alternatively, he should have been pressing a motion for the increase of official salaries on a sliding scale.

Throughout the proceedings the Mayor's versatility predominated, but at the conclusion of the discussion he was confronted by the most delicate problem of his career. The result of the voting was declared to be a "dead heat" and by his casting vote he would have to settle the future of the council. Nothing daunted, he rose to the occasion and gave his decisive vote in favour of the immediate adjournment of the meeting—an outstanding example of the spirit of compromise which prevails in politics.

The motif of the N.A.L.G.O. Summer School was idealistic, its achievement a fact, and the other possibilities a pleasant reality. In a week it is not possible to imbibe the wisdom of the universe; but seven days are sufficiently long to provide means of mental stimulation to transform the leisure hours of other days from complacent indulgence to the pursuit of one increasing purpose.

It is symptomatic that many of the students were (like myself) sent with a grant from their N.A.L.G.O. branch, and a few statistics on this point would be enlightening and encouraging, I am sure, to other branches. Four Summer Schools have now been held, and some students are "old hands." How soon will the time come when the prestige of being the "oldest inhabitant" of the School is hotly contested?

By ROBERT WILLIAMS

THERE are, I take it, two classes of critics of the N.A.L.G.O. Summer Schools. There are those who consider that "mugging" public administration and economics at even so delightful a place as Oxford is a stodgy way of passing part of one's summer vacation; and, on the other hand, there are those who criticise because they are unable to see in what way attendance at a Summer School can help a Local Government Officer with his job.

I do not think that anyone who was a student at the School recently held at University College, Oxford, would subscribe to either of these criticisms. Everyone voted the week an immense success; everyone vowed he would go again next year. If that is not sufficient proof of how entirely enjoyable the Summer School was, it has only to be mentioned that besides attending the lectures there were all

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EDUCATIONAL COURSES

NALGO CORRESPONDENCE INSTITUTE'S EXCEPTIONAL FACILITIES

WE are used to the high-sounding phrase "long term planning" in connection with most departments of local government work. This is not a new idea; it has been practised by most members of N.A.L.G.O. in their private lives almost for all time. As young officers they have considered their position in the office, and if the way to promotion is barred by lack of qualifications they have laid their plans to obtain these, sometimes tying up their free time for as long as three and four years ahead.

The Association recognises that this urge to prepare for more responsible work is one which should receive every encouragement. In view of the fact that the offices of many local authorities are comparatively small, and that they are scattered all over the country, it is often impossible to establish evening classes in the technical subjects of the examinations which local government officers take. To remedy this situation, N.A.L.G.O. established a Correspondence Institute in 1920 as part of its wide scheme for the education of members of the Association. This Correspondence Institute has had a phenomenal rise to fame, as is shown by the number of enrolments in the following table:—

1927	..	257 new students.
1928	..	368 " "
1929	..	435 " "
1930	..	664 " "
1931	..	728 " "
1932	..	783 " "

Examination Successes

The examination successes obtained by students of the N.C.I. point to the efficient training which they receive. In 1932, for instance, successes were notified by no less than 295 students. Seven special honours were obtained, including the "Mary Hill" Memorial Medal (awarded to the best candidate in the Relieving Officers' Examination); first place with honours in the Intermediate A.R.V.O. Examination; the prize of that Association and the special prize for the best Book-keeping paper in the Intermediate; and the first, second and third places with prizes of 12, 6 and 3 guineas respectively, in connection with the Nalgo Final Examination. In the first half of 1933 successes were notified by 296 students, and it is anticipated that this number will be considerably increased before the close of the year, as the results of several examinations have still to be ascertained.

The work of the Nalgo Correspondence Institute is described in a general prospectus, which is supplied free of cost to all inquirers, and in a number of more detailed prospectuses relating to particular examinations. Any municipal student who is interested in this type of work should write to the Headquarters of the Association, 24 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1, stating his requirements, when full information will be forwarded to him. Branch Secretaries and Local Education Correspondents will also give information.

New Courses

The work of the Correspondence Institute is continually under revision, and new courses are provided whenever necessary. For instance, on August 15, 1933, the syllabus for the new Clerical Assistants' Examination to be conducted by the Poor Law Examinations Board was published. On August 17, 1933, the Correspondence Institute announced that it was able to accept enrolments immediately for tuition for the 1934 examination.

During the past year the papers for the course leading to the Testamur Examination of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers have been entirely re-written and fully illustrated by special photo-printed diagrams. By the adaptation of existing courses, it is now possible for students to be coached for the

(*Continued on page 243, col. 3*)

SUMMER SCHOOLS

(*Continued from page 241*)

the delights of Oxford to be sampled—boating on the Cherwell and Isis, and bathing in the free and easy atmosphere of Parsons Pleasure were the most popular—as well as functions, such as social evenings and tennis tournaments arranged by the School.

Mr. T. CUNNINGHAM SHANKS, A.L.A.A., Clerk to Clackmannan County Council, who participated in the Scottish Summer School

These are pleasures of the flesh. What I, personally, enjoyed most of all was meeting strangers engaged in the same profession as myself, and talking to them and getting to know them in the atmosphere of Oxford. Oxford seemed to provoke discussion, partly, I think, owing to the perfections of the lawns there. A weed in an Oxford lawn is seemingly undreamt of. On the other hand, local government is not perfect, and is, indeed, chock-full of weeds, as Mr. Ivor Jennings convincingly proved in his lectures on the problems of modern local government. Consequently, whether due to this ever-present antithesis or to what other cause, there was never any need to stimulate discussion after any of the lectures. Students just ached to weed the local government lawn, and told each other how they would set about it, not only after lectures, but at all sorts of odd times.

I can bear witness myself to having sat up until half past one with four other earnest souls discussing the Trade Cycle and its likely effects upon local government. I forget what conclusion (if any) we came to. Confronted with the routine work of local government, it may occur to us that we were just five solemn asses. We may ask ourselves, with some pungency, in what way a discussion on the Trade Cycle at half past one o'clock in the morning at a Nalgo Summer School in University College, Oxford, will help us with our work as Local Government Officers. This is the point of view of the second type of critic to whom I referred at the beginning of this article.

The answer is, of course, that attendance at the Summer School does not help one to audit accounts, or draft minutes, or prepare plans. Its function is more important. Speaking for myself, it has helped me to appreciate my position in the local government service, it has stimulated my interest in my particular job, it has shown me what a fascinating subject local government is, it has freshened my mind generally. Moreover, I have enjoyed myself immensely.

In saying this, I feel sure I speak not for myself alone, but also for all the students of the 1933 Summer School whom I sincerely hope to meet again next year.

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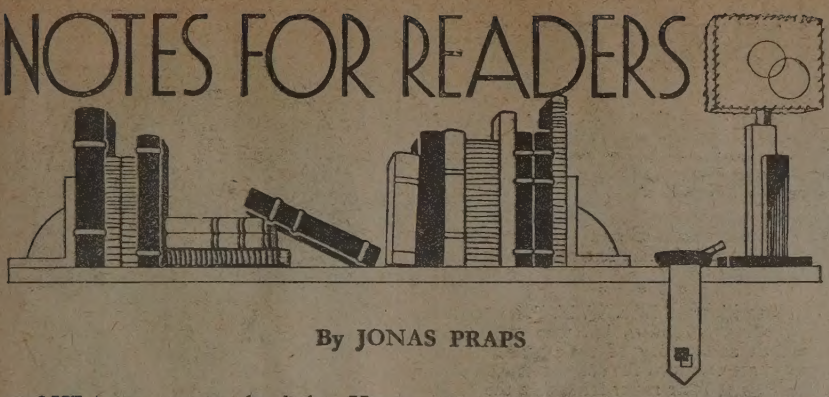
NOTES FOR READERS



By JONAS PRAPS

COME easy, go easy, by Arthur Mason (Cape, 7s. 6d.) has no dull pages in it. Briefly, it relates the experiences of a young sailor who leaves his ship at San Francisco to join the gold rush to Nevada. But that is a very tame description of experiences full of high lights and the unexpected. It omits reference to one of the important characters, the deaf white mule "Peppermint" which accompanied him. There is a chapter describing a journey on the mountains in a blizzard ending in his stumbling on a tent with its only occupant listening to a gramophone playing "Holy Night." You will meet some tough characters and language as tough as the characters if you travel with Mr. Mason, but you won't be bored stiff. I am reminded by this book that it is many years since I read the author's *Flyin' Bo'sun*—his earlier sea experiences when "Christmas dinner meant much to a sailor on a Scottish ship"; another book worth reading.

* * *

In 1932 Mr. Peter Fleming was commissioned to explore the interior of Brazil in the hope of clearing up the mystery associated with the fate of Colonel Fawcett. As related in *Brazilian Adventure* (Cape, 12s. 6d.), he travelled some three thousand miles, but beyond "the discovery of one new tributary to a tributary of the Amazon, nothing of importance was achieved." A delightfully inconsequential expedition, "it was," as the author says, "impossible to take anything to do with this enterprise very seriously"; even when traversing the Amazon they lost their chief supply of food in the river. There is much good humour, and some excellent photographs add enlightenment to a record of experiences which, if not of much consequence, are of great interest and delight to the reader.

* * *

James Hanley, in *Captain Bottell* (Boriswood, 8s. 6d.), succeeds in his obvious intent to create a sinister atmosphere at the commencement of this story of the sea—the last voyage of the tramp steamer *Oroya*. The first disturbing element is a stoker engaged at the last moment—a man of considerable education; the second the unexpected and unusual arrival of a woman passenger with whom Captain Bottell, a confirmed bachelor approaching retiring age, falls deeply in love. Though it is not suggested as cause and effect, this is the beginning of tragedy: boilers go wrong, a leak is discovered in one of the holds, the captain becomes mad and is held prisoner in his cabin. The story ends with the remnant of a crew and the passenger leaving the vessel in a sinking condition by means of the boats, only to find Captain Bottell has inadvertently been left behind. The picture of the storm and the last moments on the vessel is well drawn. The conversation is natural, and the seafaring life portrayed in all its wildness and uncertainty. An excellent story, but the elimination of the superabundance of talk between the passenger and the gentleman stoker would have improved it.

* * *

A medley of choice is provided in *Better Think Twice About It*—by Luigi Pirandello (Lane, 7s. 6d.)—between grave and gay, fantastic and serious. The first story, "The Other Son," is a horribly realistic one of a woman with an illegitimate son. "Chants the Epistle" is a delightful story of an unfrocked deacon. Others have a humorous vein, but in all there is excellent writing.

* * *

Fish Are Such Liars (Heinemann, 3s. 6d.) is a reprint of the 1931 edition (7s. 6d.), and is good value. Roland Pertwee has a real genius for conveying an impression of his characters to his readers in a few deft sentences. Most of the thirty stories are worth reading. It is curious that the title is selected from the last story in the book—an unusual procedure—though "Better Think Twice About It" is not the first story in a book of short stories already noted.

* * *

"Escape" books have a tremendous fascination, with the sympathy of the reader usually in favour of the escaper. How Major Paul Stoffa escapes from the Russian prison camp at Siberia through China to the States, only to be re-captured by the British in an attempt to reach Europe, is very graphically related in *Round the World to Freedom* (Lane, 7s. 6d.). It was an adventurous trip commencing with an escape through the trap-door of the camp sewer, and is told in a breezy fashion.

Other books of which space will not permit extended descriptions are:—

Eric Linklater's *The Men of Ness* (Cape, 7s. 6d.). A story of the Orkney Vikings with a graphic picture of life on a Viking vessel.

John Drinkwater's *Laying the Devil* (Sidgwick, 3s. 6d.). A play of a woman who played with fire but escaped the burning.

Denis Mackail's *Having Fun* (Hodder, 7s. 6d.), in his usual light bantering style.

EDUCATIONAL COURSES

(*Continued from page 242*)

Sanitary Science Examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

These are three examples of entirely new courses, but improvements are not confined to major alterations of this kind, and from time to time sections of existing courses are re-written and improved. For instance, the Tutors are working at the present time on the new course in Office Practice; the papers in this subject will be ready for use early in September. The difficulty in connection with this course is that there is no single text-book which is suitable and adequate. Detailed study papers have, therefore, been prepared, and are in themselves a small text-book which will be unobtainable except by students of the Correspondence Institute. This course, by the way, can be taken by interested officers as a single subject course for the special fee of £1 2s.

An entirely new set of papers has been prepared on the Law Relating to Local Government and Municipalities designed primarily for the Intermediate Examination of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries. This subject is so important for local government officials that it has been decided to offer it separately as a single subject course at the special fee of £1 10s. Many other single subject courses are also available.

It is reported with regret that Mr. Percy Craven, Borough Treasurer of Hornsey, has been obliged to relinquish his position as Director of Studies for the course leading to the I.M.T.A. examinations. His place will be taken by Mr. Henry Brown, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A., City Treasurer of Rochester. A determined effort will be made during the next year to increase the number of students in this course for officials in Financial Departments, as it is felt that the present papers are so good that more candidates would enrol if they knew their excellence.

We cannot close without remarking that substantial reductions from the tuition fees are made in the case of members of N.A.L.G.O. It is no idle boast, therefore, to say that the Association offers the cheapest and best courses for local government officials.

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Perfect weather ensured the success of the Port Talbot Staff annual outing, when a company of sixty officials and friends went on a motor coach tour. The party had lunch at Aberystwyth and tea at Llandrindod Wells. The outing was splendidly organised by Mr. Brynmor Morris.

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OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. S. Tapper Jones, LL.B., has been appointed deputy town clerk of Cardiff. A native of Pentre, Rhondda, Mr. Jones served his articles with Messrs. Cousins, Botsford and Co., Cardiff, and in 1924 he graduated with honours as a Bachelor of Laws at the University of London. He passed the final examination of the Law Society, also with honours, in 1925, and upon admission as a solicitor practised as managing clerk with Messrs. Allen Pratt and Geldard, with whom were amalgamated Messrs. Vachell and Co., Cardiff. In April, 1927, Mr. Jones was appointed conveyancing solicitor to the Cardiff Corporation, and in 1929 he succeeded Mr. D. J. Parry, the Glamorgan county solicitor, as prosecuting solicitor for the city.

* * *

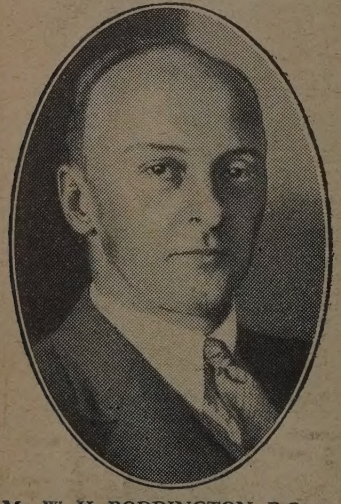
Mr. John Napier Smith, A.I.M.T.A., A.S.A.A., has been appointed deputy city treasurer and controller of Cardiff. Mr. Smith was first appointed junior clerk in the city treasurer and controller's department of Cardiff in 1912. He is a vice-president of the Cardiff Branch of N.A.L.G.O., and held the office of hon. treasurer from 1925 to 1931. He was also secretary of the South Wales and Monmouthshire branch of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants for the same period. Mr. Smith, who is 39 years of age, is a native of Cardiff.

* * *

Mr. W. H. Boddington, B.Com., A.I.M.T.A., principal assistant to the City Chamberlain, Dundee, has been appointed deputy borough treasurer of Leyton. Mr. Boddington, who is thirty-nine years of age, has been just over six years in Dundee. He is a Bachelor of Commerce of Leeds University, and gained experience for eight years in the accounts department of Sheffield Corporation, after which he served two years as chief clerk and accountant in the borough engineer's department of Rotherham Corporation. During his term in Dundee his skill in every department of municipal finance has earned him a high reputation, and his kindly and unassuming manner has made him many friends.

* * *

At the forty-eighth annual general meeting of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants, Incorporated, held at Folkestone, the President of the Institute presented to Mr. Arthur Collins on behalf of the members of the Institute an antique silver salver in recognition of his distinguished services as Secretary of the Institute from 1926 to 1933. To the silver salver was added the gift of a pair of mother-of-pearl opera glasses for Mrs. Collins. The presentation was made amidst loud and prolonged applause, and was acknowledged by Mr. Collins in a speech in which he referred to the pleasure he had derived from his work on behalf of the Institute and from the many friendships which he had formed amongst the members.



Mr. W. H. BODDINGTON, B.Com., A.I.M.T.A., new Deputy Borough Treasurer of Leyton

* * *

To Councillor and Mrs. W. H. Pullinger, of Palmers Green, London, N., who celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding on August 7, are extended the congratulations and good wishes of their many friends in the local government service. Besides being prominently identified with municipal affairs as a councillor, Mr. Pullinger's distinguished services for N.A.L.G.O. will not soon be forgotten. As a member of the National Executive Council and chairman of the Metropolitan District Committee, he spared no effort to further the interests of the officers. He was a staunch advocate of Whitleyism, and represented the Association on the National and London Whitley Councils for the clerical, technical and administrative staffs, being for some time chairman of the London Whitley Council. For thirteen years Mr. Pullinger held the positions of president and chairman of the Association of Assistant Overseers and Rate Collectors (now the Rating and Valuation Officers' Association). In 1925, Mr. Pullinger was elected to the Southgate Urban District Council—soon to be the Southgate Borough Council—and his keen understanding and vigorous service have gained for him a wide esteem. He was elected chairman of the council in 1928, and was re-elected to that position in the following year.

* * *

Widnes and district members assembled at the Council Chamber recently to honour their president, Mr. W. S. Wilson (the borough engineer), who has been appointed borough engineer of Chesterfield. A presentation was made to Mrs. Wilson. Mr. J. Asprey, chairman of the executive committee, presided over a representative gathering of members of the municipal staff and was supported by Mr. Wilson, Dr. Jones (vice-president), Mr. E. W. McNorton (town clerk), and Mr. J. G. Macdonald (secretary). Mr. J. Wallace (deputy town clerk), on behalf of the executive committee, expressed thanks to Mr. Wilson for all that he had done as president of the local branch.

Dr. Jones made the presentation of a bureau, and Mr. Wilson, in acknowledging, appealed to all to take a keener interest and join more heartily in the work of N.A.L.G.O. N.A.L.G.O. was practically a new organisation, but since the War it had made extraordinary strides and in the future it would be one of the most powerful organisations in local government.

* * *

Mr. A. S. Martin Pratt, assistant in the Town Clerk's department, Acton, who entered the Council's service in 1924, has been called to the Bar at Gray's Inn.

* * *

The death took place on July 28 of Mr. Thomas F. O'Meara, president of the Norwich Branch of the Association. Mr. O'Meara, who had been senior sanitary inspector of Norwich since April, 1927, had been ailing for a considerable time, but his death came with a tragic suddenness that shocked his colleagues, by whom he was universally regarded with the highest respect. The funeral was attended by members of the Norwich city council, chief officials, and by a large number of Mr. O'Meara's colleagues in the sanitary and other corporation departments, whilst the Branch was represented by the vice-president (Mr. W. W. Elven) and the Branch honorary secretary (Mr. R. W. D. Abbott).

Mr. J. NAPIER SMITH, A.I.M.T.A., A.S.A.A., who has been appointed Deputy City Treasurer and Controller of Cardiff

Mr. Maurice Fuller, P.A.S.I., Chief Assistant to the Borough Architect of Gravesend (Mr. John G. Bennett, L.R.I.B.A.), who recently passed the Intermediate and Part Final of the Associate Examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects, has now gained further honours in town planning. He was successful in passing the examination held in July last which qualifies him for the Associate Membership Degree of the Town Planning Institute. He was also awarded the Diploma of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution for town planning. In obtaining this diploma, Mr. Fuller enjoys the singular distinction of being the only candidate to gain the award this year, and also that of being the first holder of this diploma issued by the Institution. Mr. Fuller is a member of the executive committee of the Gravesend Branch of N.A.L.G.O.

* * *

Mr. H. W. Underdown, Committee Clerk, Dagenham U.D.C., has obtained an appointment as Committee Clerk with the Malden and Coombes U.D.C. He has been an active member of the local branch of N.A.L.G.O. during his two years' service with the Dagenham Council, and in his capacity as Social Secretary has successfully organised a number of indoor and outdoor social functions for the Branch. As a token of their appreciation the staff of the Dagenham Council have presented Mr. Underdown with a dressing case. Mr. Underdown was attached to the Colchester Branch prior to going to Dagenham.

* * *

Captain D. H. Henson, who was for twenty-seven years in the service of the Leicestershire County Education Committee (School Attendance Department), and who retired in 1931, has written the words of a song entitled "Overseas," published by Messrs. Peter Derek, Ltd.

* * *

The death has taken place of Mr. Frederick Leonard Bell, formerly Chief Sanitary Inspector of Portsmouth, a post from which he retired in 1925. He served for over forty years in the Medical Officer of Health's Department of the Portsmouth Corporation. He was a Fellow of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association and a member of the local branch of N.A.L.G.O. The funeral took place at Southsea, among the mourners being Dr. A. Mearns Fraser, Medical Officer of Health; Dr. A. B. Williamson, Deputy Medical Officer of Health; and other officers of the Portsmouth Corporation.

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I am, yours sincerely, F.A.

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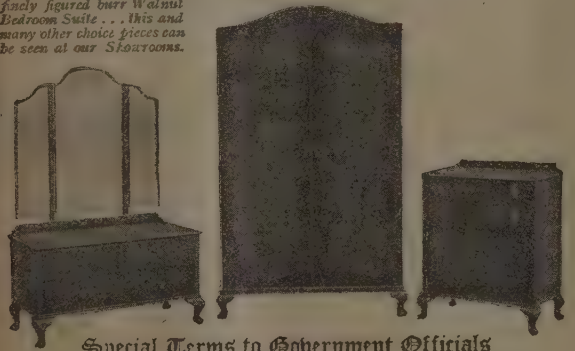

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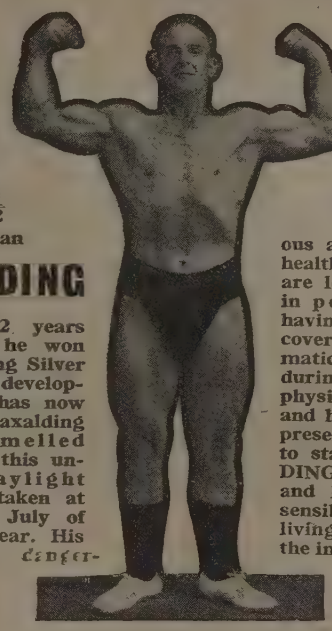

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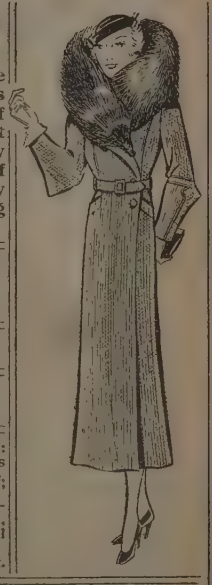

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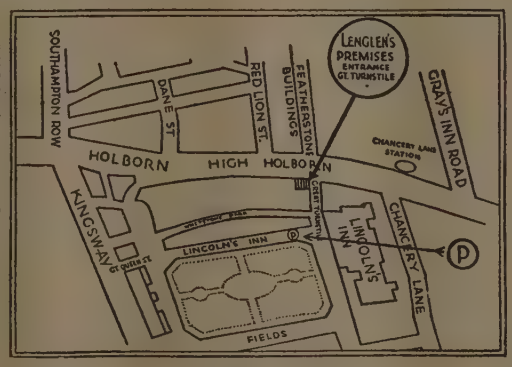

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25th May, 1933.

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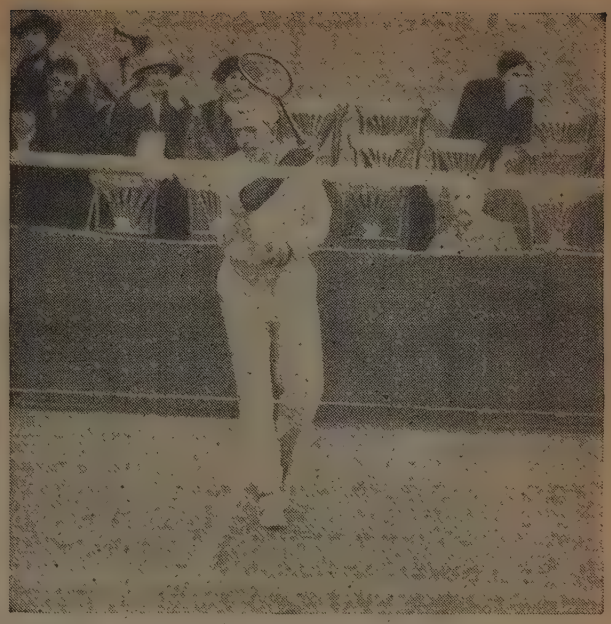

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TABLE TENNIS

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"Kodak Snapshot."

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

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24 ABINGDON STREET,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance," "Finance," "Organisation," "Education," or "Special Activities."
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Telegrams: Natassoc, Parl, London.

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Scottish—J. M. Mortimer, 135 Wellington Street, Glasgow. Telephone: Douglas 404.

HOLIDAY GUIDE

Members who have stayed at holiday accommodation, which they can recommend for inclusion in next year's issue of the Association's Guide, are requested to send details to headquarters. Information is also desired of any accommodation already included in the publication which has not proved satisfactory.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted to branch honorary secretaries from Headquarters:—

JULY 26

Circular No. 58/*Legal*/1933.
Regarding claims for compensation for loss of office or diminution of salary or emoluments.

Circular No. 59/*Log*/1933. (*To local correspondents of Logomia.*)
(*a*) Regarding payment in respect of introduction fees for new fire and comprehensive insurances and life assurances.
(*b*) Conveying the thanks of the Board of Management for obtaining the new business.
(*c*) Regarding the aim of the Association in respect of new proposals.

Circular No. 60/*Gen.*/1933.
Regarding membership propaganda and those people who are members of the Association's activities but not of the parent Association.

Circular No. 61/*Gen.*/1933.
Containing further information regarding National Rule 9—scale of subscriptions.

Circular No. 62/*Gen.*/1933.
Regarding eligibility for membership of the Association and requesting the views of branches on the matter.

Circular No. 63/*B.O.*/1933.
Regarding the supply to branches of Benevolent and Orphan Fund collecting boxes, and setting out a requisition form for number required.

Circular No. 64/*Ed.*/1933.
Informing branches of the proposal to hold a meeting of education correspondents at next year's Annual Conference, and asking this to be borne in mind when appointing branch representatives.

HOLIDAY CAMPS

The Association's Bungalow Holiday Camps at Croyde Bay, North Devon, and Cayton Bay, near Scarborough, have experienced a most successful season. Both camps were filled to capacity during practically the whole of July and August and appreciative letters are constantly being received from members who have spent enjoyable holidays. A high tribute has been paid to Cayton Bay Camp which was opened on July 1:

> "Many of us have had experience of other camps, and we wish to say first of all that we regard this camp as a great advance upon any other within our knowledge."

Members and their friends who prefer to take their holidays in September are strongly advised to experience the delights of staying at one of these modern holiday establishments. Accommodation is available at both camps from September 16 to 30, but as this is being rapidly booked up, early reservation is essential.

NALGO COLOURS

The well-known firm of wholesale manufacturers who produce the articles made in the Association's registered colours are replenishing their stocks in anticipation of a further large demand during the coming season. These goods are of the best quality, and are obtainable from headquarters or through branch secretaries at the following prices: Sports Badges—Blazer (pocket size), 2s. each. Ties (silk or knitted), suitable for business or sports wear, 2s. each. All-silk Ties, 3s. 6d. Scarves, black ground with stripes, or white with stripes, 10s. each. Tobacco Pouches, silk covered, 2s. each. Better quality, 3s. each. Ribbon, corded silk ½ in. wide, 10d. per yard. Material, as used for ties, 24 in. wide, 7s. per yard, Blazers, good quality flannel, in sizes 36, 38, 40, 42 in., 28s. 6d. each. Blazer material, 27 in. wide, 5s. 3d. per yard—4 yards required for a blazer.

CHESS COMPETITION

Ten teams have entered for the National Competition for the "Pullinger" Correspondence Chess Cup, there being three players in each team. They are Battersea, Cumberland, Hackney, Ipswich, Leeds, Lincoln City, Port of London Authority Upper Division Staff, Richmond, Southwark, West Riding.

Competitors will be notified of the result of the draw and the periods allotted for playing off the various stages of the Competition in order that it may be completed in time for the "Pullinger" Cup to be presented at the Annual Conference at Scarborough, at Whitsun, 1934.

Mr. M. J. Murphy, Town Hall, Bethnal Green, E.2, is the honorary secretary of the Competition.

BOOTS' BOOKLOVERS' LIBRARY

August 1 marked the commencement of a new subscription year in connection with the library service arranged with Messrs. Boots' Booklovers' Library on special terms for N.A.L.G.O. members.

Last year there were taken out:

2112 Class "A" Subscriptions.

5327 Class "B" Subscriptions.

Forms for the renewal of subscriptions or for the taking out of new subscriptions are obtainable from branch secretaries, and are only issued to bona fide members of N.A.L.G.O. The forms should be filled in and accompanied by remittance, and handed to the Librarian of the local or most convenient branch of Messrs. Boots' Booklovers' Library.

To members who have not yet availed themselves of the special terms with Messrs. Boots the following examples may be of interest.

Class "A" entitles the token-holder to all works in circulation, including the newly published works, for a period of twelve months, 15s. per volume.

Class "B" entitles the token-holder to all works in circulation, excluding the newly published works (usually volumes are placed in this class about four to eight months after publication), for a period of twelve months, 5s. per volume.

Subscriptions are limited to *two* volumes per member.

In order to meet the convenience of those members who do not desire immediately to take up this scheme, application forms will be supplied at any date, but the remittance should accompany the form when handed to the Librarian of the branch, as stated above, assessed at the rate of:

In the case of class "A" 1s. 3d. per month or part thereof; and

In the case of class "B" 5d. per month or part thereof; to expire on August 1, 1934.

Branch secretaries should write to N.A.L.G.O. Headquarters for supplies of the application form, stating the number required. These forms can be used for new subscribers as well as for renewals and by *all* N.A.L.G.O. members.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months; March, 39; April, 37; May, 36; June, 36; July, 38; August, 39. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follow:

	JUNE.	JULY.	AUG.
Food	14	18	19
Rent	56	56	56
Clothing	85	85	85
Fuel and Light ..	70	70	70
Other Items ..	75	75	75

Members are reminded that renewal premiums on "N.A.L.G.O." Household Insurance Comprehensive Bonus Policies fall due on September 29.

Local Government Service

Editorial and Advertisement Offices, 3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn 2288-2289.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

ELSEWHERE in this issue is given a report of the proceedings at the meeting of the National Executive Council of the Association held on July 22. Once again this résumé affords a striking impression of the wide range of activities of the Association and of the valuable work which is being carried on for the protection and advancement of the interests of officers in every grade of the local government service. The report also gives an indication of some of the more difficult problems with which the service is at present confronted. It is a point of no little interest that there is hardly a question which concerns what may be described as the wider national interests of the service which is not very closely related to the advancement of the administration itself. The point is one which stood out transparently clear in the proceedings at the recent meeting of the National Executive Council.

Educational Policy

Not the least gratifying feature of developments affecting local government in recent years is the fact that a considerable impetus has been given within the service itself to a bold and progressive educational policy. For this, a number of reasons may be cited. In the first place, the increasing and highly responsible duties of local government officers make it necessary that entrants to the service should be equipped with the essential educational training. Again, it is necessary that the service should be protected against the appointment of inexperienced persons. A further factor is that in the matter of promotion the addition of professional qualifications to an aptitude for administrative work is a distinct advantage. Not less important, of course, is the fact that in the course of time the question of educational and technical equipment must have a substantial influence in the matter of the improvement of salaries and service conditions generally.

Examinations Record

As will be seen from the report of the Education Committee, the Association's educational policy is being vigorously pursued in various directions. In the examinations held last May the number of entries in the intermediate and final grades was the highest on record. Again, the Association's preliminary examination will be recognised for the purpose of admission to the intermediate examination of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants, provided a candidate passes in all subjects of the examination at one sitting. It will be remembered that the question of loans for educational facilities aroused considerable interest at the Folkestone Conference, and members will be gratified to observe that a draft scheme for submission to the Scarborough Conference next year is already under close consideration by the Education Committee. Satisfactory progress is being made with the Scholarship Scheme, and it is significant both of the growth of interest by the younger members of the service in the question of educational equipment and of the advantageous facilities afforded by the Association that the Nalgo Correspondence Institute again shows an increase in the number of enrolments.

Needs Test Administration

Though it is now more than three years since the functions of the former Boards of Guardians were transferred to the County and County Borough Councils, there are still difficult problems affecting the transferred officers which continue to engage the close attention of the National Executive Council. One question which arose on the report of the Poor Law Transferred Officers' Committee concerns the remuneration of relief staffs for the extra work and responsibility arising out of the administration of the Needs Test. Some authorities have not increased the officers' remuneration, and it was a timely reminder which was given recently in the House of Commons of the powers which the Minister of Labour possesses under the Order in Council to approve for reimbursement additional expenditure incurred by local authorities in the administration of the Needs Test.

An Unanswerable Case

The officers concerned have, of course, an unanswerable case for the payment of additional remuneration commensurate with the extra work which has devolved upon them. It should not be forgotten that in many cases these new duties were placed upon them after salary scales on a normal basis had been fixed. When these scales were arranged it was, of course, not contemplated that there would be such a substantial addition to the work of the Public Assistance Authorities as has been involved in the administration of the Needs Test; and though provision was made for the engagement of additional staff, it is evident that the work of the permanent staff, in dealing with questions which, for their determination, require experience and technical training, has grown substantially both in volume and responsibility.

Some Service Questions

The individual cases affecting superannuation, status of officers, and tenure of office which are given in our report are indicative of the range of questions which come within the purview of the Poor Law Transferred Officers' Committee. From the Law and Parliamentary Committee there was also submitted a very comprehensive report in which figured a large variety of cases taken up on behalf of members. In view of the reference from the last annual conference on the subject of tenure of office, the report of this committee on the effect of the relevant provision of the Local Government Bill, now before Parliament, is of great value. Again, the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation (Temporary Provisions) Act, which received the Royal Assent just before Parliament rose for the recess, has been found to be better than was anticipated from the draft headings for the measure originally issued by the Ministry. The question of the provision of compulsory superannuation to all local government officers has been advanced a further important stage by the decision to prepare a draft Bill to be promoted by the Association.

Whitley Councils

A question which arose prominently on the report of the Service Conditions and Organisation Committee was, of course, that of the establishment of a complete system of Whitley Councils, a matter upon which, it will be remembered, the Folkestone Conference registered an emphatic opinion. Details concerning the progress of the campaign for the formation of a network of Whitley Councils throughout the country, which are given in a special article in this issue, will be read with interest. Altogether, the proceedings at the meeting of the National Executive Council—both in regard to the redress of grievances in individual cases and to those matters which are, or are likely to become, prominent issues affecting service conditions generally—reflected the unceasing vigilance with which the Association is safeguarding the interests of its members. They should, moreover, assist to convince any officer who has not yet made up his mind as to the claims which N.A.L.G.O. has upon his support, especially at a time which is fraught with great difficulty for the service.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOOKSHELF

SANITATION PROGRESS

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S HANDBOOK, by Henry H. Clay, Fellow of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, etc. (H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., London. Price 15s.).

ONE expects something good from Mr. Clay, who is recognised as an expert, and he has not failed us. Formerly Sanitary Inspector to the Metropolitan Borough of St. Marylebone, and now Lecturer in Sanitary Engineering, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (University of London), he is well qualified in every respect to be the author of this excellent handbook.

Training of Inspectors

Professor W. W. Jameson in his introduction states:

"It has long been recognised that if a Sanitary Inspector is to do his work to his own and his Local Authority's satisfaction, he must have undergone a period of special training, at the conclusion of which the inevitable examination has had to be surmounted. The Examination Board have very properly been demanding from candidates an ever-increasing standard of general education and technical knowledge, the benefits of which are already being reflected in the work of Health Departments."

Anyone in a position to judge will entirely concur in the professor's views, and Mr. Clay's book provides a great deal of the additional knowledge and contains items quite new to a work of this description.

The original "Sanitary Inspector's Handbook," by Taylor, later revised by Clarke, was widely known by the inspectorate, but Mr. Clay's work fulfils a decided need at the present time when legislation, as well as standards, has been modified so considerably during the past few years.

Commencing with the evolution of the Public Health Law, the author follows with chapters on the qualifications of inspectors, powers of entry, nuisances, smoke abatement, the Housing Act, 1930, etc. The latter portion is exceedingly informative and goes into considerable detail, including a specimen schedule of works which may be commended for adoption.

The chapters on drainage and sanitary fittings are clearly the work of an expert, and the author definitely excels himself here. The science of proper ventilation is dealt with at considerable length, and a pleasing feature is a description of Sir Leonard Hill's katathermometer—a welcome one in a work of this description. We strongly commend inspectors, as well as students, to the observations on ventilation, having demonstrated the use of this instrument and obtained useful data from investigations in which it was used.

Not a little space is devoted to the important question of food control and inspection, and here, as in each chapter, a summary of the law precedes the other matter. These summaries are exceedingly useful and greatly enhance the value of the work.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Having regard to the cost of refuse collection and disposal and the improvements which have been made in both sections during the last few years, the lowering of costs, the increasing number of local authorities who have resorted to "controlled tipping" and as a result are carrying out land reclamation schemes, perhaps we may be permitted to express a wish that this subject had been dealt with a little more fully. The author's difficulty in including everything in detail is realised, and we are making no adverse criticism in this observation.

The "Sanitary Inspector's Handbook" can be strongly recommended as an excellent textbook—and we consider it among the best it has been our pleasure to perise. A. D. O.

CITY MANAGEMENT

CITY MANAGER YEAR BOOK, 1933. (International City Managers' Association, 2 dollars).

LIKE most year books, the "City Manager Year Book, 1933" contains an assorted fare. It is divided into two main parts, the first comprising informative articles by American experts on almost every aspect of public administration, including municipal budgeting, public purchasing, city planning and zoning, housing, public health, schools, and education, police administration, and public utilities. The last article in Part I is an interesting account by Mr. Nolting, the Assistant Director of the City Managers' Association, of Council Manager Government. The second half of the book is devoted to verbatim reports of the proceedings of the nineteenth annual conference of the Association. The subjects of papers given covered a wide range, from "The real cost of municipal retrenchment" to "Maintaining sustained citizen interest in Government."

Sir Ernest Simon's Views

It is interesting to note that this country was represented at the conference by Sir Ernest and Lady Simon and by Dr. Herman Finer, the lecturer in public administration at the London School of Economics. As is well known, Sir Ernest Simon is a determined advocate of the introduction of some form of city manager system into the local government of the larger English local authorities, and he delivered a similar address to the conference to that which he gave in May last year to the fifth congress of the International Union of Local Authorities in London. He refers to the "great lack of any central co-ordinating agency, the kind of vision which Mayors and city managers are very much more inclined to put into the Government of a city" which characterises local government in England.

What, then, is the city manager system? It is no exaggeration to state that it is generally regarded in this country with profound distrust. Nevertheless, the fact that it has been adopted in 425 cities in the United States of America within the last quarter of a century indicates that the advantages which it entails should at least be considered in an impartial and unprejudiced way.

City Manager's Functions

The system had its origin in 1908, but no practical experiment was carried out until 1913, when a manager was elected in the City of Dayton, Ohio. The waste, extravagance and even corruption which had characterised the "politician" government of the last century in the States had combined with such other evils as low standards of municipal accomplishment, lack of vision with regard to the city's future, and jealousy and ill-will between communities to produce discontent, distrust, and suspicion of the mayor and council. This feeling grew in intensity, and taxpayers began to look round for some new method of government by which their cities might be run with greater efficiency and economy. This method they found without exploring very far.

They were struck with the resemblance between the running of a city and of a business. They understood this type of organisation, and concluded that the system which brought them success could, with certain modifications, be adapted to municipal government. And so the method now is to elect from out of the whole of the city a small body who determine the policy of city government and elect a manager—the paid city manager—to administer the affairs of the city. The city manager is immediately and directly responsible to the Council for most

(*Continued at foot of column 3*)

LONDON GOVERNMENT

LONDON AND ITS GOVERNMENT. Sir Percy A. Harris, M.P., L.C.C. (J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., Aldine House, Bedford Street, London, W.C.2.) Price 3s. 6d. net.

THIS book was written during 1931, but has just been issued in a cheap edition. To give an adequate review of this work would take far more space than can here be given to it, for Sir Percy Harris makes the story of the growth of London, so rich in history, so full of tradition, and yet so easily adaptable to the ever-growing needs of a constantly expanding population, a romance which few, if any, fiction writers could equal.

Ancient Privileges

It commences with the growth of the City of London and traces the ancient privileges which have, since the Roman invasion, been conferred upon its inhabitants and the author, as befits one who is concerned with the good government of the London of to-day and to-morrow, feels that these privileges should either be conferred upon the whole of London or else abolished altogether.

Sir Percy tells us of the efforts made by chance, accident, or deliberate intention, to co-ordinate the various functions of London, culminating with the creation of the Metropolitan borough councils and the County Council. To-day, London's annual budget exceeds that of many small sovereign states.

It is pleasant to find that the author, in describing the "great change-over" occasioned by the Local Government Act, 1929, pays glowing tribute to the work of the officers. After detailing the services transferred to the County Council, he says that "on April 1, 1930, the County Council, that twenty-five years before had swallowed successfully the London School Board, digested the whole of this gigantic work without turning a hair. It speaks wonders for the skill and administrative ability of its staff."

In dealing with the question of local authority loans, the author has a good answer for those critics who feel that the expenditure of local government should be drastically curtailed. "Most of the National Debt," he says, "has disappeared in smoke; it has been incurred to cover the cost of war. But local authorities, like London, can show realisable assets, mostly on land and buildings, which the investor in municipal loans can see with his own eyes."

The Future

The author concludes his work by peeping into the future. His natural bias is in favour of a centralised London for all essential services, leaving the Metropolitan boroughs and the other units which make up the outer ring to administer purely local services. This raises an old bone of contention, but, whether one be pro- or anti-centralisation, this concluding chapter is a masterpiece in favour of his line of thought.

This is a book to be read and then placed in the library for future reference. Don't loan it to your friends, for you will not get it back, and that will be little short of calamity. D. J. P.

(*Continued from column 2*)

aspects of city business. He appoints the departmental heads and is responsible for co-ordinating the work of the various departments. His duties include "analysis, planning, and financing, organisation, personnel administration, supervision." In a word, the city manager system is a definite attempt to solve the greatest problem that confronts modern political democracy on the structural side, namely: "the creation of an efficient executive subject to constant popular control." C. K. W.

RECENT NOVELS

Whether the ancient riddlemeree of setting a beggar on horseback has any connection with *Beggars Would Ride* through Mr. Harold Ohlson's adventurous pages is well worth discovering. Another matter equally worth the trouble of clearing up, is how Georgina's Henry "could guess that chap was really a girl," and who the said "chap" might be. For when Georgina, with Henry and another, pulled up at the library door her Georginaship observed: "You—you understand?" "Perfectly," was the answer.

A similar verdict will surely be given by Mr. Ohlson's readers, since he provides a fully mysterious tale about unconditional thousands in sterling and a further sum amounting to a cool £5,000 to give away and "go where the chancellor won't hear us." It all centres round Mr. Bunce, an old dear, who has the handing-out of these undeclared sums to such as he may deem worthy. His method of divining worthiness is clearly surprising and while making no pretence to point a moral it certainly does adorn a tale. Grammatical rules, as all others, were made to be broken, and it is ever the proper thing to order your chauffeur to "drive like hell." Those who Would Ride with Mr. Ohlson will not be Beggars for amusement when they try him. (Ward, Lock, 7s. 6d.)

* * *

Cowboys, whose vogue began with *Mexican Joe* more years back than one cares to recall, are still prominent in popular fiction. With novelists so well adapted to their task as is Mr. Maxwell Smith, there seems little chance of the Wild West becoming extinct, though *The Last Brand* (Ward, Lock, 3s. 6d.) needs to be read before such a title can be fully justified. As the novelist's latest creations: Starr, Scuddy, Link, certain bushwackers and hell-raisers have each in turn and altogether a lurid time. There is the inevitable "sheriff," of course—quite a good dose of him—and a great gamble over the almighty dollar, with a particularly desirable ranch for certain deserving folk after wedding bells. It was a double wedding, in fact, with the give-away gentleman all but forgotten. "By heck! I'll give away the bride. I'll give 'em both away," said somebody who had no standing—and it was true!

* * *

Mr. Harold Bindloss, who, in thirty years of authorship, has produced well over fifty novels, has a new story, just out with Ward, Lock & Co., entitled: *The Stain of the Forge* (7s. 6d.). Fred Atherton's particular streak of discolouration is a matter of full measure, for not only has he, the son of a lawyer well up in the social scale, soiled his hands by descending to foundry work, but he has done so by deliberate choice. It is another case of "return to type," Atherton being a "throw back" of nature and the descendant of a mechanic. None the worse and perhaps the better, he "wins through" (to employ still another well worn term), thanks to himself mainly and no thanks at all to snobs who would have rather hindered than helped.

BOOKS BY MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

EXAMINATION NOTEBOOK

Municipal handbooks written by Mr. Stanley Whitehead, F.I.M.T.A., Borough Accountant of Hammersmith, commonly run into reprinted and revised editions. It was so with *Municipal Audit Programmes* and *Municipal Accounting Systems* (5s. net each), and again it is the case with *The Municipal Student's Examination Notebook* (7s. 6d. net). That they are all issued by Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., is a point to be noted.

The author has made a larger and better "Notebook" than was required by earlier needs, absorbing also the material of a supplement issued in 1931 and quickly out of print. In expansion Mr. Whitehead has added considerable re-writing in his chapters, thus making a most useful "refresher," as it were, for students who are going through the textbooks. It is no use as a crib or crammer. The first subject, Book-keeping, starts with being "defined," and sound definition may be said to indicate the whole purpose. There are chapters showing what may be expected at examination in such subjects as: costing, valuation, government grants, public finance, economic science, income tax, and twice as many more.

A table gives alternative bases for government grants and another the existing government grants. An epitome of the Ministry of Health regulations as to accounts of local authorities also makes reference easy. Statistical diagrams are linked with a stores diagram, two histograms deal with remuneration paid to corporation employees and the various features of a local authority's finances. This is unmistakably a first rate book of guidance to a subject where light and learning are essential.

PUBLIC HEALTH

THE HEALTH OF ENGLAND. By T. W. Hill, M.D., D.P.H. (Jonathan Cape.). 6s.

Dr. Hill, who is Deputy Medical Officer of Health of West Ham, has written a book which is as provocative as it is illuminating. His theme is the vast machinery of English public health administration, and in dealing with it and the numerous services which it covers he does not hesitate to point out salient defects and to suggest practical reforms. Whether one agrees with all Dr. Hill's conclusions or not, it is refreshing to encounter a writer on such controversial subjects as those which are here discussed, who has made up his mind on changes which are needed and who gives clear and uncompromising expression to his views, instead of enumerating six *pros* and five *cons* and ending up by saying; "On the whole, perhaps we had better stay as we are!"

For example, after discussing the vexed question of functions and areas of local authorities, Dr. Hill says (on page 30) "I would, therefore, recommend that all communities, whether Municipal Boroughs or Urban Districts, having a population over 50,000, be made County Boroughs," and later (on page 32). "County areas outside the large towns should be split up into divisions, each supporting a population of about 50,000 in charge of a whole-time medical officer of health who would be responsible to his County Medical Officer of Health."

Dr. Hill does not, however, attempt to show how, if his proposals were implemented, County Councils would be able to raise sufficient rates to administer services in rural areas: and he ignores other factors of this problem about which there was a "battle royal" between representatives of County Councils and County Borough Councils in the evidence taken before the Onslow Commission.

The book contains a foreword by Sir Arbuthnot Lane and is well illustrated by numerous photographs and diagrams. The author has mastered the difficult art of using statistics "to point his moral and adorn his tale."

"ENQUIRIES"

ENQUIRIES INTO RELIGION AND CULTURE. By Christopher Dawson. (Sheed and Ward, 31 Paternoster Row, London, E.C.4.). 8s. 6d. net.

IN these days, when materialism is accorded a place far exceeding its importance in the general scheme of life, Christopher Dawson's new book, "Enquiries," is as refreshing as a sea breeze blowing into an artificially and over-heated room. Mr. Dawson, who is Lecturer in the History of Culture, University College, Exeter, is one of the world's foremost philosophical historians and sociologists, who has an assured reputation and a rapidly growing public.

In spite of the variety of subjects treated in the fifteen papers contained in this book, which is a selection of essays and addresses from his work during the past twelve years—and they range from the nature and destiny of man, Christianity and sex, to the passing of industrialism, the mystery of China, the significance of Bolshevism and the world crisis and the English tradition—there is an underlying unity and consistency. They amplify and consolidate the position already defined by Mr. Dawson in his full-length historical studies. Incidentally, many of the popular fallacies levelled against Christianity, particularly Catholicism, are here exploded in no uncertain manner.

Those who have read any or all of his previous works will agree that his latest book is the hall-mark of his reputation. Those who have not read them should make his acquaintance without delay, for he brings a scholarly mind to bear upon the problems which are uppermost in the thoughts of those men who are anxious for the progress, not the disintegration, of the present civilisation.—D. J. P.

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WHITLEY COUNCILS CAMPAIGN

REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

AT a meeting of the Standing Joint Committee of the National Association of Local Government Officers and the Sectional and Professional Societies, held on July 22, it was reported that replies had been received from a number of Sectional and Professional Societies to the communication addressed to them on March 20 last, asking for their support and assistance in furtherance of the Whitley Councils Campaign.

The following associations had expressed themselves in favour of the policy of the National Association, and in support of the extension of the Whitley Council system in the Local Government Service :—

Association of Directors and Secretaries for Education.
Association of Local Government Financial Officers.
Association of Municipal Transport Managers.
County Land Agents' Association.
Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers.

Mr. Edmund Lund, President of the Association of Local Government Financial Officers, at the annual meeting of the Association held at Folkestone on Tuesday, June 27, 1933, said :—

> "To my mind, one of the most valuable contributions to the discussions at the N.A.L.G.O. Conference was that in connection with the establishment of Whitley Councils, and I commend to your notice the paragraph in the annual report of N.A.L.G.O. dealing with the matter. I would like to emphasise that, in my opinion, the establishment of such Councils would prove of very great value to all those engaged in the local government service, and would do much to prevent and remedy many of our difficulties."

The following letter has appeared in most of the Local Government papers, and extensively in the general press, and very well illustrates the advantages of meetings between representatives of employing authorities and staffs on Whitley Councils :—

The Whitley Principle

SIR,—The decision of the National Association of Local Government Officers to press for the extension of the principles of Whitleyism throughout the Local Government service must have the warm support of all who see in the periodic meetings of employers and employed our best hope of industrial peace.

In the Local Government service the extension of Whitleyism is not being urged as a means of avoiding strikes on wages questions, for I think I am right in saying that, as far as the administrative side of the work is concerned, no strike—or lockout, for that matter—has ever been suggested.

Whitleyism serves a wider purpose. It enables the representatives of employers and employed to meet on level terms outside their daily work and in informal conference to discuss the problems of that daily work in an atmosphere conducive to goodwill and co-operation.

Nothing is more important if Local Government is to prosper, as prosper indeed it must if the community is to prosper, and that is why so many of us in the House of Commons are watching with interest the results of N.A.L.G.O.'s efforts to promote the wider use of Whitley Councils.

Local Government stands higher to-day than it has ever stood before. Councillors are recognised as loyal servants of the communities to which they belong, and their officers as hard-working servants of the very necessary Councils which employ them. That the usefulness of both would be greatly increased by giving them opportunities under the machinery the Whitley scheme provides for meeting and discussing the problems that beset the service as a whole is sound commonsense, and N.A.L.G.O., I feel, is to be congratulated on taking the lead in urging its extension, a lead, it is significant to note, which has the support of Mr. J. H. Whitley, who gave his name to the Councils his famous report recommended.

I hope that Councils—County, Borough, Urban, and Rural—will meet the approach that is to be made to them in the spirit in which it is made, and that before many months we shall see the country covered from end to end with a network of councils, operating in the real spirit of the Whitley Committee's recommendations.

(Sir) WILLIAM JENKINS,
M.P. for Neath.

House of Commons.

Chancellor's Support

Representations were recently made by the staff side of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service to the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding the action of the official side of the Council in declining to make recommendations on certain matters dealt with in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service which would involve increased public expenditure, owing to the adverse financial condition. It is very satisfactory to note the following extracts from the reply dated August 2, 1933 :—

> "Mr. Chamberlain notes the desire of the National Staff side that the Whitley bodies in the Civil Service should be used in the fullest and most effective manner possible. He fully shares this desire, and would regret if any misunderstanding should arise on the point by reason of the difficulties inherent in the existing financial situation.
>
> "In your letter you stated that the Official Sides of the various Committees appointed to examine the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service have refused to agree to any material improvement in the conditions of service in the Civil Service based upon those recommendations.
>
> "Mr. Chamberlain does not feel that this general statement does justice to the facts, ignoring, as it does, the substantial benefits which have recently been conferred at no inconsiderable cost to public funds, on certain unestablished classes of civil servants as a result of the Report of the Committee on Temporary Staffs. In reply to the penultimate paragraph of your letter I am to say that the Government have every intention of continuing to make the fullest possible use of the machinery of Whitley Councils and Committees in Civil Service matters."

Request to District Committees

On the instructions of the National Executive Council a communication has been addressed to each District Committee urging that the subject of Whitleyism should be introduced at their meetings with a view to educating the members on the advantages to be derived therefrom and asking that reports of progress may be submitted to the National Executive Council.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' CONFERENCE

Mr. W. W. Armitage, vice-chairman of the National Executive Council, and Mr. L. Hill, general secretary, will be the fraternal delegates of N.A.L.G.O. at the annual conference of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, to be held from September 4 to 9, at Clacton-on-Sea. Sir Leonard Hill will deliver the presidential address, and discussions are to take place on slum clearance and re-housing, problems of meat inspection, milk pasteurisation, modern cleansing practice, air pollution, and other subjects.

AN APOLOGY

is needed before the subject of sickness insurance can be introduced, whilst the beneficial effect of the glorious summer weather experienced this year is still being felt, but with the winter ahead it is not inappropriate to mention these three points:

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BRANCH ANNUAL MEETINGS

THE time for the annual meetings of branches is rapidly approaching, and already branch secretaries will be arranging dates, making preliminary drafts of agendas, and possibly considering who shall be invited to attend and address the members on this important occasion. The attendance of a special speaker tends to add interest to the annual meeting of the branch which, to a large extent, is necessarily concerned with formal business. Branch treasurers also will be busy in seeing that subscriptions for the year ending October 31 are all completed so that the most satisfactory financial statement may be presented to the meeting.

The branch annual meeting should be a source of inspiration to members. A careful retrospect of the past twelve months will disclose that in many directions the Association has again proved its value in the furtherance of the interests of officers, and that many of the members have benefited by the Association's activities. In view of the appeal of the National Executive Council for the formation of a solid body of opinion in support of Whitley Councils, this subject, it may be expected, will be in the forefront of the proceedings. It is hoped that the educative propaganda will be reflected in the discussions on the subject at meetings of district committees, thus enabling those committees to report to the National Executive Council a unanimous demand from the rank and file that the chain of Provincial Whitley Councils may be extended to cover the whole country.

MOVEMENTS OF MEMBERS

Stephenson, F., M.A., Staffordshire, to Director of Education, Wallasey C.B.

Jackson, A. A, Coventry, to Transport Engineer and Manager, St. Helens C.B.

Hutchings, J. F., Notts C.C., to Clerk, Flintshire C.C.

Burdekin, T. H., Wirrall, to Valuation Assistant, Birkenhead C.B.

Forster, R. S., Darlington, to Clerk under the Bridgwater Council.

Emery, George, Rotherham, to Relieving Officer under the Wolverhampton Council.

Clark, G. R., West Riding C.O. Branch, to Deputy Treasurer under the North Riding Council.

Shipton, W. D., North Riding C.O. Branch, to Clerical Assistant (Public Assistance Department) under the West Riding County Council.

Thurman, H., Spenborough Branch, to Accountancy Assistant under the Sale U.D.C.

Allen, W. H., North Bucks, to Godstone R.D.C., as Rating Assistant.

Berry, E., Bucks County, to Exeter City, as Assistant Master.

Webb, J. U., Poole, to Epsom U.D.C., as Senior Clerk, Treasurer's Dept.

Jupp, I. J., Canterbury, to Newcastle-under-Lyme, as Weights and Measures Inspector.

Dobson, F. G., Chichester, to Leatherhead U.D.C., as clerk.

Humphreys, S. A., Epsom R.D.C., to Hambledon, as clerk.

Lucas, R. F., Epsom R.D.C., to Hambledon.

Corps, A. E., Epsom R.D.C., to Leatherhead U.D.C., as clerk.

Shirley, J. J., Banstead, to Haslemere, as Sanitary Inspector.

Kay, A. E., Leyton, to Town Clerk's Department, Stoke Newington.

DISTRICT AND BRANCH NEWS

CROYDON

On July 14 the Executive Committee of the Croydon Municipal Officers' Association celebrated the twenty-one years' existence of the Association at a function at the King's Arms Hotel, where an excellent supper was served by Mr. Teale. The guest of the evening was the chairman of the Executive Committee (Mr. A. C. Gower, assistant town clerk), who has been chairman for the past fourteen years. In proposing the toast of "Our Chairman," the vice-chairman of the executive (Mr. C. Wild) referred to the work of the Association during the period under review, and detailed many of the benefits and concessions obtained by the staff through the efforts of the chairman and the Association. Mr. Gower, he said, had always been alive to the progress of the Association, and had always keenly fostered the sports activities, as witness the present splendid sports ground of the Association. He asked Mr. Gower, on behalf of past and present members of the Executive Committee, to accept a divan chair as a token of the esteem in which he was held.

Mr. Gower, after thanking the members, compared the humble beginnings of the Association and the present membership of nearly 400, and referred to some of the pioneer members of the Association, several of whom were present that evening, and also to the many landmarks of progress of the Association. He alluded to his approaching retirement, and said he hoped that the interest in the Association would not in any way be diminished.

Increasing Service

Mr. Sidey proposed the toast of "Nalgo," coupling with it the "National Executive Council," and referred to the many activities now in existence in connection with the local government services and the many services rendered to members of N.A.L.G.O. Mr. Pinches, of the National Executive Council, in responding to the toast, said that N.A.L.G.O., as it increased in membership, had to provide many varied services and give such help as might be necessary to such a large body of members. He instanced recent developments in connection with the Cayton Bay Camp and the Building Society, and spoke of the work of the Law and Parliamentary Committee, etc., in the interests of members. The National Executive Council, he said, were always keen to see that the status of the local government service was maintained, and that the welfare of the individual member should not suffer.

Mr. Nelson proposed the toast, "The Local Branch."

Mr. Toogood (clerk to the Croydon National Health Insurance Committee), who was the first hon. secretary of the Croydon Branch, also spoke, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the vice-chairman (Mr. Wild) for the manner in which he had arranged the proceedings.

TORQUAY

Since the revival of the Torquay Branch last year the committee have striven to attract and retain the interest of the members. That these have increased in number from 40 to 110 may be some indication that their endeavours have not been without success. The committee have felt, however, that a closer contact, if possible, should be established between themselves and the members, and that the latter should have at fairly frequent intervals up-to-date information as to the activities of the branch. Accordingly, it has been decided to issue a brief statement of items of interest to the members each month. The July and August issues attained a high standard of merit.

The Secretary of the Greenwich Branch would like to hear from any member in the Metropolitan Area who has arranged to stay at Cayton Bay Holiday Camp during the week September 16—23.

BRANCH JOURNALS

Twelve months ago the Journal contained a list of branch publications. Since then notification has been received of local journals issued by Bromley, Surrey C.C., East Sussex C.C., Middlesex C.C., Torquay and Tottenham Branches, and it may be convenient to give the following up-to-date list: Accrington, *The Accrington and District Nalgo News;* Acton, *Monthly Notes;* Batley, *The Officers' Mess;* Bath, *The Municipalist;* Bedford, *The Bulletin;* Blackburn, *At Your Service;* Bromley, *Bronal;* *Chesterfield, *The Journal;* *Coventry, *Camera Principis;* *Croydon, *Croydon Municipal Officers' Journal;* *Devon C.C., *At Your Service;* East Sussex C.C., *Monthly Bulletin;* Gloucester, *Civitas;* Greenwich, *N.A.L.G.O. Notes;* Hants C.C., *Local Leaflet;* *Isle of Thanet, *The Thanet Officer;* *Leeds, *The Guildman;* Lindsey County Officers, *The Newlander;* *L.C.C., *L.C.C. Branch Notes;* *Liverpool, *The Journal;* *Manchester, *Guild Journal;* Middlesex C.C., *The Guildhall Gazette;* St. Helens, *The Stimulus;* *Salford, *The Journal;* *Sheffield, *Sheffield Municipal Officers' Guild Journal;* *South Shields, *The Journal;* Southampton, *Branch Notes;* Southwark, *Nalgo Bulletin;* Stalybridge, *The Es-bo Bulletin;* Stockport, *The Optimist;* Torquay, *N.A.L.G.O. Notes;* Tottenham, *Tottalgo Reflections;* Twickenham, *Eel Pie;* Wallasey, *The Wheel;* Wednesbury, *Wodenalgo;* *West Riding, *The Luminary;* Widnes, *The Stem;* Worcester (City Treasurer's Dept.), *The Treasury;* *Surrey C.C., *The Review.*

*These publications appear in printed form.

DISTRICT GOLF

An endeavour is being made to arrange a golf match between the Metropolitan District Committee and the Southern District at Camberley Heath on September 13. Already a good number of acceptances have been received from members of the Metropolitan District Golf Section, and full particulars of the arrangements are being forwarded to the members concerned at the beginning of September. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. W. Nelson, Education Office, Croydon.

SWIMMING GALA

The Swimming Section of the Metropolitan District Sports and Recreations Sub-Committee is organising what promises to be a most interesting evening's entertainment. At the annual gala, at the Marshall Street Baths, London, W.1, on Wednesday, October 25, there will be competitions for eight trophies presented by members and branches in the district. All types of swimmers will be catered for, two of the chief events being handicap races. There are to be displays by an amateur diving association team and by well-known southern counties swimmers. Teams from famous London Clubs will be competing in open races, and there is to be a first-class polo match. Fuller information may be obtained from the honorary secretary of the section, Mr. P. J. Smith, 12 Shakespeare Road, Bexley Heath, Kent, or branch secretaries.

EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A meeting of officials serving local authorities in East Gloucestershire was held recently at the Municipal Offices, Cheltenham—Col. E. S. Sinnott, C.M.G., County Surveyor, presiding. The chairman spoke on the desirability of forming a branch for that area, as did also the hon. secretaries of the Gloucester County and Cheltenham Branches, and the Divisional Secretary. It was decided to form a branch, Mr. E. Cudmore being appointed hon. secretary *pro tem.* Mr. Cudmore is to communicate with a number of officials who were unable to attend, and another meeting is to be held in September to appoint officers and committee. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Col. Sinnott for presiding and for his interest in the work of N.A.L.G.O.

BRIDGE FORUM

By Neville Hobson.

NO writer on Contract Bridge can ignore the interest aroused by the Bridge matches which have taken place in London during the past few months.

Between May 29 and June 3, the first International Bridge Tournament took place at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, under the conduct of the International Bridge League, and I had the pleasure of witnessing the first day's play in the company of Mr. Frank England, the captain of the English team.

Had the result been decided on the normal basis of scoring, which used to operate for duplicate matches, the English team would have won, and those who decried the selection of the British Bridge League should bear in mind this significant fact. The introduction of the new system of scoring placed England about two-thirds down the list, but there was little to choose between the different teams.

The Bridge League is an amateur association under the presidency of Mr. A. E. Manning Foster, who has the co-operation of an able committee, and their efforts in the cause of Bridge are worthy of the greatest commendation and encouragement.

Unfortunately, the B.B.L. has been adversely criticised in various quarters, and Mr. Frank England and one of his colleagues felt compelled to withdraw from an informal committee which met a few weeks ago with the object of selecting players to meet Mr Ely Culbertson's team in the match which took place during July at Selfridge's.

CULBERTSON.—This name conjures up visions of expert play, expert showmanship and expert finance, and there can be little doubt that the commercial side of Bridge has been developed to a degree which must have secured for this Bridge "Master" considerable wealth. The motto of the B.B.L., however, is "Bridge is a Game," and my visit to London during the famous Culbertson match made me appreciate the force and value of this slogan more than ever.

It will be recalled that during the first two or three days the English team went steadily ahead, but they were gradually overhauled by the four American players, who included Mr. and Mrs. Culbertson; and the, so-called, English team was ultimately defeated by nearly 10,000 points.

I am not in a position to express any enlightened opinion as to the relative merits of the different players, but the American team were accustomed to playing together and had partnered each other in numerous previous matches.

REGULAR PARTNERSHIPS.—Personally, I cannot resist the impression, however, that there is a basic objection to players playing continuously together at Contract Bridge. So long as conventions are comparatively simple and are definitely known and accepted, there is no serious scope for private understandings; but—without casting any reflection upon the integrity of the different players—one is compelled to realise that understandings of a subtle, but extremely effective, kind can gradually be arrived at between players who are constantly paired together.

Who, indeed, has not met with "the informative stare"—comprising an attitude and facial expression which is capable of speaking volumes to the particular partner who has been able to make a regular study of the deductions to be drawn?

I have hesitated to touch on this aspect of the matter, but I do so in the hope of discouraging the playing of duplicate matches between teams, the pairs of which are never changed about.

Whilst matches of this kind—played in the proper spirit and "atmosphere"—are extremely helpful and enjoyable, they are apt to become far too serious; and the intermixing of partners not only tends to eliminate the objections outlined above but also reduces the rigid intensiveness which envelops the ultra-keen contest.

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A SCOT CROSSES THE BORDER

BY MISS NETTIE CAMERON, CLYDEBANK

CAPTAIN KITCHING
Manager of the Cayton Bay Camp

IT read so good. "Cunningly sheltered from the North . . . faces South . . . commands a delightful view of the sands, the sea, and the majestic cliffs . . . all the amenities necessary for a perfect holiday—glorious sands, safe bathing, boating, beautifully laid out rock gardens, and miles of interesting walks inside the Camp grounds." All to be had at Nalgo Camp, Cayton Bay, near Scarborough!

Thinking It Over

Being a Scot—and a canny one at that—I thought the matter over, and thought well. It would probably mean English food, English cooking, English company, and, of course, plenty of "shop" talk. On the other hand, it might be glorious weather, it might be an insight into the English temperament, and, at all events, it would be a novel holiday. And so I took the plunge.

"They know not Scarborough who only Scarborough parade." At any rate they know not Cayton Bay, that most attractive inlet, two miles south of Scarborough, where an extensive stretch of clean, firm sands are watched over at the north end by delightful woods. And—what trees! Only the pen of an H. V. Morton can bespeak their stateliness and regality. And they stand on ground belonging to the Camp!

The camp itself is surely one of Nalgo's topmost achievements. Commanding a unique position, and standing in its own ground of 94 acres of wood and grass land, it reaches from the cliff top down to the beach. The accommodation is excellent. While utility is the key note of the entire arrangements, artistry keeps peeping out.

A Peep in the Bungalow

Just take a look in my bungalow. The colour scheme is blue. The curtains on the windows and door are of blue slub-rêpe, as is the bedspread. The blankets are white and blue and cover a most comfortable bed; the dressing-table and wardrobe are of a like colour, adorned with black; the chair is also to match. In the corner of the room rests a porcelain wash basin, above which are two shelves. Electric light completes the picture.

Come now to the rest room. The colour scheme here is red and blue. The curtains are of red slub-rêpe and tone in with the general colour scheme of the room. Lloyd Loom furniture of the latest design completes the furnishings. An ideal room for relaxation, reading or cards.

Now to the dining-hall, a light and airy room of special design. A peep here is a revelation. Can you visualise 250 people, at one sitting, enjoying a first-class breakfast at 8.30 a.m. prompt (8.32 means 1d. in the Hospital Box or B. & O. Fund Box) and the hall empty every morning at 9 a.m.! The camp manager and his staff are to be congratulated on their efficiency and organising ability. Varied menus, speedy and dainty service, and courteous waitresses made each meal the apex of enjoyment.

While standing outside my bungalow one morning watching a tennis match in progress, a lady approached me. "Are you Mud?" she asked. "Was I mud?" Her tone imparted no insult . . . yet. . . . "Sorry," she broke in, "I'm at the wrong hut. It's Mud of Hut 108 I'm looking for—she's my partner in the Putting Competition." Such was the holiday jargon at Cayton Bay.

Pseudonyms being the order of the day, each individual labelled himself. And what a selection! Tiny, Slim, Glaxo, Chic, Little Willie, Little Alice, Scotty, Cock-o'-the-North, Freckles, Blondy, Darky, Billy, Dave, Steve, Connie, etc. They were there in profusion, temporarily ensigns of other regions—out of the Ark, out of Dickens, or out of the Crook's Den—all good friends and "a jolly good company."

How they enjoyed themselves! They were real sports, as Sports Day in the sands made evident. Nocky almost knocked her false teeth out in her frantic effort to bite the treacle bun, and Bunny made a "telling" picture grovelling in the (sand) dust at a lady's feet pouring forth—not the old, old story, but the tale of a terrible *Miss*. And then there was the Tug-of-War—the Thistle versus the Rose. Puir auld Scotland! Where is thy glory now? Aye, but it was a stiff fight, and our English stalwarts loaned for the occasion fought well for Scotia's honour. To parody the poem:

"We heaved and they heaved
And they heaved and we heaved
And we heaved and they heaved ava' man.
But one thing I'm sure
That on Cayton Bay 'Muir'
A battle there I saw, man."

The gentlemen promised to entertain the ladies one evening, and Men's Night was the outcome, a never-to-be-forgotten evening. Spontaneity was the outstanding feature, and the curtain rose on a Parody of "Bingo":

"There is a crowd whom we all know,
Who're always sure to make things go
At the Camp of Nalgo.
N—A—L—G—O, etc."

The First Committee of the Cayton Bay Camp, elected from among the Campers immediately after the opening on 1st July. From left to right the names are:—
Back Row:—W. D. Rider (Bedford), E. J. Jezzard (N. Midlands), G. T. Townsend, L. E. Bullock (Tottenham), C. Leath (Spenborough), N. W. Townsend, J. Robinson (Nelson).
Middle Row:—A. C. Baker (West Ham), A. G. Moss (Hackney), K. Kirby (Miss) (Leeds), F. C. Brookes (Bolton), D. French (Miss), E. H. Ratcliffe, A. L. Denny (Miss), E. E. Challoner.
Front Row:—Capt. Kitching, Mrs. Kitching (Manager and Manageress), L. Hope (Mrs.), A. Noble (Miss) (Holborn), J. T. Heath (Epping Forest) Chairman; G. Barnes (Miss), K. Potter (Miss), Mrs. Potter, Mr. Potter (Manageress and Manager; Croyde Bay Camp).

MRS. KITCHING
Manageress of the Camp

An announcement followed: "Baby Patrol report child crying in Hut No. 106." Fond parents strained their ears to catch the number, and then Mrs. B. nudged her "better half" to do his good deed. (Sometimes papa didn't need a reminder, for mamma evidently gets a real holiday here!)

The concert proceeded and a splendid programme of wireless entertainment, sketches, charades, songs and funny stories was submitted. This tip-top entertainment, voted as far superior to the "Bouquets" on the Spa, closed with the last verse of "Bingo":

"And when it's time to disappear
We vow we'll come again next year
To Nalgo Camp at Cayton.
N. A. L. G. O. and
Nalgo is it's name Oh!"

The fancy dress parades were a source of amusement, particularly among the children. Two little three-year-olds as Adam and Eve captured the fancy by their naiveté; the little cupids won many hearts; little Miss Ovaltine was singularly dainty, as was also little Miss Yardley. Indeed, it was hard to distinguish the best, as all the children in the camp were most attractive.

Round the Camp Fire

All good things come to an end, and all the best things are generally at the end. Friday night in camp life is the evening *par excellence*. On this occasion, a special visit was made to the camp by Their Majesties the King and Queen of Caytonia accompanied by "Sir Harry Lauder," and in their best regal style they gracefully presented the sports prizes. Ten o'clock, however, heralded the finale, when, marching to music, we all made for the

(*Continued on page 260, col. 3*)

SAVE OR SPEND?

THE PLIGHT OF OUR MUNICIPALITIES : CAN EMPLOYMENT BE CREATED BY BORROWING ?

By T. S. SIMEY, M.A. Lecturer in Public Administration at the University of Liverpool

IN normal years, municipalities give employment to many thousands of workpeople by the construction of buildings and the re-equipment of institutions, in addition to the regular employment provided by their day-to-day activities. In 1929-30, the most recent year for which financial statistics are available, the public works contracting industry employed 163,000 workpeople, while the building industry was responsible for 817,000. Both these industries are very largely supported by the expenditure of public authorities. In that year, loans were raised by local authorities for general (Rate Fund) purposes amounting to £62,090,000 and for trading services £24,687,000.

Unhappily, in this matter as in others, the local administrator is not suffered to go his own way in peace; he is subject to continual interference from the politicians in control of the Central Government. In 1929 it seemed a magic way out of the difficulty of unemployment for the local authorities to "expedite future requirements," or, in plain English, to do to-day what in the natural course of events they would have done to-morrow. Accordingly the persuasiveness of Whitehall, not to speak of its bribes in the form of attractive grants, induced local authorities to enter into many schemes involving the outlay of very large amounts of capital. The immediate result of this was the expansion of the public works contracting industry from 163,000 in 1929 to 290,000 in 1932 and the building industry from 817,000 in 1929 to 857,000 in 1932.

The Economy Knife

This, however, is but the beginning of the story. In the meantime the financial structure of the country proved incapable of bearing the burden in a time of increasing world depression, and the Central Government applied the surgical knife of economy in 1931. Consequently, the debit balance of unemployment (as at March, 1933) presented to the country by the Central Government and the local authorities should run somewhat as follows :

Industry.	Per cent. Unemployed.	Number of Unemployed
Public Works Contracting	43.7	124,000
Building	26.8	225,000
National Government	13.3	16,000
Local Government	20.0	67,000
		432,000

The worst feature of the situation is that these excessive figures of unemployment should occur in those very industries which the Government has almost entirely under its own control. In his annual report for 1929-30 the Minister of Health called attention to the "importance of systematic budgeting for capital expenditure," adding that "on each occasion there should be at least a five years' survey of probable capital commitments." But no sooner were the words out of his mouth than the injudicious use of the accelerator pedal and the brake reduced the vision of the local authorities to at most one year ahead. We find, for instance, that the Ministry of Health sanctioned loans amounting to £41,786,000 in 1930-31, which figure dropped to £30,306,000 in 1931-32, whilst "the number of applications received during the second half of the year was much less than in the first half." Probably the figures for 1932-33 will show a still more sensational drop.

Slaughtering the Estimates

In other words, the estimates of capital expenditure were slaughtered. Everything solid and permanent disappeared in the holocaust. Plans were flung aside; pledges made—that, for instance, made to the building trades in 1924—disregarded. The Building Industries National Council has estimated that in February last the value of the building work held up exceeded £35,000,000. Can it be wondered at that Lord Eustace Percy has called the Government "the worst buyer in the country" ?

Nearly two years have elapsed since the issue of the Ministry's Circular 1222. In the meantime many works requiring capital expenditure have become overdue, whilst the works cut short in that year cry aloud for completion. Taking stock of the situation we find, not that capital outlay by local authorities is discredited, but that at last an opportunity has come for putting it on a reasonable basis.

Wanted—A Lead

I need not enter into long economic arguments as to the effect of the expenditure. We know that the work needs doing; we know that the credit of the local authorities has never been more highly estimated. Sound business principles should move public authorities to "spend now." Prices will never be lower; they are likely to rise sharply on the first sign of industrial recovery. Then will be the time to stop, not to start, spending.

It is high time, therefore, for action to be taken. The diminution of taxation is a poor argument for inaction when, as *The Times* recently reminded us, we see that during 1932 bank deposits increased by £246,000,000, whilst bank advances declined by £123,000,000. Money, in these post-Victorian days, seems no longer to "fructify in the pockets of the people" as it did in Gladstone's day! A return to normal should be delayed no longer.

The lead must be given by the Central Government. Otherwise, the local authorities, accustomed now to expect nothing from London, will keep their commitments as low as possible, and the old sorry spectacle of paying people to do nothing will be continued. In 1929-30 we find that Poor Relief absorbed the following approximate percentages of the *total rates levied*:

Liverpool	34
Newcastle-on-Tyne	39
Sunderland	43
Bootle	43
Darlington	8
Burton-on-Trent	11
Exeter	11
Southport	6.5

In Bootle the estimates for 1933-34 provide for an increase in the amounts allocated to public assistance, which will make the total *more than half* the product of the rate.

At a Stroke of the Pen

In those fortunate areas with low percentages of unemployment such as the four mentioned above, the policy of spending can be put into effect by a mere stroke of the pen. But in the depressed areas, where unemployment is highest, and purchasing power needs most support, there is a very different story to tell. These municipalities cannot be expected to make arrangements for carrying on the normal work of Local Government *and* support all those that are turned away by the national insurance funds. Liverpool, for instance, has been forced to reduce its estimate of capital expenditure from £3,557,000 made in 1932, to the current estimate for 1933-34 of £2,664,000, a drop of £893,000, or nearly 25 per cent. The City has 100,000 unemployed at the moment, and it is absurd to expect that work can be found for them at the cost of the rates, which have now to bear the crushing burden of public assistance.

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THE RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS, 1920-1933. H. Heathcote-Williams, M.A., Barrister-at-Law. (Property Owners' Protection Association, South Place, Finsbury, E.C.2.) 238 pp. 6s. 6d., post free.

The 1933 Bill in its original form sought to empower local authorities to publish information and give advice for the assistance of landlords and tenants as to their rights and duties under the Acts. As a result of amendment, the words "and give advice" were deleted.

The precise difference between the present position and the original proposal may be a little difficult to define, but it may be a convenient defence when an official is confronted by a member of the public armed with the Blue Book recently published as above and with a list of queries arising out of the inquirer's own difficulties or extracted from opinions ventured occasionally by the author of the book on points that are bound to arise.

This book primarily is intended for the property owner, but it is in a form that will be found useful by the official who is called upon to carry out part of the many duties placed upon local authorities by the Acts, and who will find so much information within one cover of decided benefit.

There is a brief statement of the effects of the 1933 Act, section by section, a table of cases, and 117 pages of explanation of the many points arising under the Acts. A most useful feature is a reprint of the various Rent Acts and Statutory Rules and Orders from 1920 to 1933, showing by special type those parts of previous Acts, etc., that are repealed or affected by the latest enactments, with footnotes referring to the sections and rules that govern the various alterations and modifications.

The whole matter has been carefully read by Mr. Linton Thorp, K.C., M.P., and an index completes a useful work of moderate price.

J. T. B.

HOME GARDENING

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens," "Everyman's Encyclopædia of Gardening," etc.

PERHAPS in many cases the first September task in the garden will be to restore as far as possible the *status quo* shattered by August holidays—to eliminate an accumulation of weeds, to remove faded flowers, to pull out withered plants, to put pot plants which have suffered from drought into soak for a few hours, and to give a general tidying-up. For gardens have a very human way of going wrong directly the master's eye is removed.

Disaster may have overtaken some of the cuttings which I mentioned in my August notes, in which case put in another lot. There is still time for most of them, including Antirrhinums, Pansies, Violas, and Pentstemons, which are four of the most important kinds. There is also plenty of time for bedding Calceolarias. A doubt may arise in the minds of some readers whether Antirrhinums raised from cuttings now will flower as long next summer as seedlings raised in February. If the summer, like the one nearly past, is hot and dry, they won't. In calling attention to cuttings I was influenced by the desire of some growers to make sure of a perfectly true stock. "Rogues" are not common in seedling stocks, but they do occur. None the less, the reader whose first thought is for a long display next summer should prefer February seedlings to August or September cuttings.

Sweet Peas

I expect that most Sweet Peas grown as cordons are now over. I daresay many people who have grown them to single stems and disbudded regularly will have appreciated the long stalks with flowers in fours, but will have been a little taken aback at the smaller number of stalks per plant than are obtained when the plants are grown naturally. Also they may have had to deplore a larger percentage of plants carried off by the "streak" disease. Personally, I contemplate a compromise next year—providing a framework of tall Pea sticks on strong uprights, and allowing each plant to develop four or five shoots, these to go up and be disbudded as single-stem plants are. In connection with the Sweet Pea Lilac Domino which I recommended last month, the famous grower, Mr. Unwin, writes: "It is a curious fact that this variety is the only lavender-coloured Sweet Pea in existence which gives round, plump seed without a mottled appearance. When I first saved seed, which was before it was named, I thought a mistake must have been made; however it turned out to be a lavender right enough."

Walking down the Road of Remembrance at Folkestone during N.A.L.G.O. week, I was interested to observe that Rosemary had been planted along the new low wall which skirts the road. A very happy thought, for this hoary aromatic shrub is the plant of remembrance. Let me in turn remind readers that it can be increased by cuttings now. Like Lavender, Rosemary loves a loamy soil with a free admixture of lime.

For Rose Growers

Rose growers may also have a reminder about cuttings. It is true that I dealt with budding a month ago, but those remarks could only be given a practical application by persons who had stocks. Home-raising by means of cuttings is open to all, and September is the month in which to pursue it, taking off fairly firm shoots 6 in. to a foot long of this year's growth with a little of the older wood, and inserting them in a shallow trench with a sandy base and treading moist soil against them nearly to the tips. Ramblers as well as dwarfs may be tried. Readers who pursued the gathering with long stems which I wrote of earlier in the year, thus providing a sort of summer pruning, will now be reaping a second harvest of flowers.

The hot dry summer brought garden Chrysanthemums along rather too fast and July flowers on nominally August varieties, and August flowers on September varieties, are more plentiful than one would like them to be. A certain amount of disbudding is essential if long stalks are wanted with the flowers, and long stems are certainly very desirable for room vases. Some of my lady friends eager for long stalks dislike disbudding. I wish I could tell them how to have it both ways, but I can't. Thick clusters of buds mean short stems whatever you do or don't do; so set your dainty fingers to work, my fair friends, and remove the subsidiary buds without a qualm.

People who make a point of saving their Daffodil and Tulip bulbs, and have lifted and dried a stock, may wonder whether it is too early to plant. It is not, provided the soil is moist. I believe in planting bulbs early, particularly Daffs. And this, of course, applies to purchased as well as home-saved bulbs.

Freesias

I mentioned Freesias in my August notes and have since recalled a remarkable exhibit of these flowers made by a Mr. G. H. Dalrymple at one of the Royal Horticultural Society's shows last February. It gave a striking proof of the way in which this charming bulb has developed, for in the days of my youth there were but two offered in most catalogues, namely, the yellow and white species refracta and its white variety alba, whereas to-day there are scores of varieties embracing a wide range of colours, including hues so distinct from the original species as lilac, lavender and mauve. My readers should certainly interest themselves in these lovely and fragrant bulbous flowers, taking note of the descriptions in the bulb catalogues which are now coming in. It is not the custom to plunge Freesias in coconut fibre or ashes in the same way as most other potted bulbs, but to put half a dozen bulbs in a 5- or 6-in. pot and place them straight into a frame. They like the ordinary bulb soil of loam with a quarter or so of leaf-mould and a liberal intermixture of sand.

"Prepared" Hyacinths

What bulb-dealers describe as "prepared" Hyacinths are available this month, and there is no reason why they should not be put into the bowls (or pots as the case may be) at once, to flower in rooms in January, earlier in warm greenhouses. The list of varieties of "prepared" Hyacinths in most of the bulb catalogues is quite short; indeed, some dealers offer under colours only, omitting names; and the bulbs are smaller than the "first-size" or "top-size" bulbs offered in the catalogues. Three bulbs may be put into a 5-in. or 6-in. pot, and four to a dozen in a bowl, according to its size. Bowls 10 to 12 in. across the top are well suited to four plants, so use four bulbs accordingly. Bulb-fibre as obtained from seedsmen varies a great deal more than the bulbs do, and probably affects results more; anyway, results differ a great deal. I like a fibre for Hyacinths which packs pretty firmly when thoroughly moistened through and through. Fibre for Daffodils should be looser, although equally moist, and for Polyanthus Narcissi looser still; if it is anything like hard below them they will rise out of it directly roots begin to form. In every case let the tips of the bulbs protrude from the fibre and let the bowls spend a few weeks in a dark place, so that growth may not be stimulated in advance of roots.

A Few Mems

Give hedges their final clippings for the year. Pot up Chrysanthemums from the open if there is a surplus and something cheerful is wanted for the conservatory, chopping round the plants with a spade a few days before lifting and taking up with a firm mass of moist soil. Pot Cinerarias and Primulas into their final pots, 6-in. and 5-in. respectively. Clean up the Violet frame, set it facing south, provide a 9-in. depth of soil over a mixture of manure and leaves, and set the plants just clear of each other, the tips near the glass. Pot Roses may be pruned and repotted, ready for removal under glass in due course. With a warm greenhouse available, Cyclamens may still be sown for flowering in the winter of 1934-5. Arum Lilies may be potted and put into a frame. Tuberous Begonias and Gloxinias which have flowered in pots and are now withering may be brought to rest with reduced watering and the pots ultimately laid on their sides under a greenhouse stage for the winter. On the other hand, fibrous Begonias like Gloire de Lorraine, which are coming on for winter flowering, may be given a higher temperature, also more atmospheric moisture until the flowers show.

Mr. John H. Warren, of the Town Clerk's staff, Birkenhead, who is chairman of the Birkenhead Branch and a member of the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council and of the General Purposes Committee for the North-Western District, has passed the Solicitors' Final Examination. Mr. Warren, who was articled to Mr. Tame, Town Clerk, was among the first students to take the Diploma in Public Administration at London University.

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DO RATES HAMPER INDUSTRY?

MANUFACTURERS' COSTS EXAMINED

IN a statement issued by the National Association of Local Government Officers, Mr. Edwin Fairchild asks and answers the question: Are rates a burden on industry?

The rates paid by an industrialist are an item of expense in producing the goods which issue from his factory, mine, or shipyard. But to what extent does that addition to cost actually arise? By what amount is the price which the ultimate consumer pays increased by the rates that were incurred during manufacture?

Generally, he points out, the amount is so slight that its removal would not affect the actual selling price.

Effect of Derating

He refers to the derating provisions of the Local Government Act, 1929, and shows that the manufacturers of England and Wales obtain substantial relief in the matter of rates reduction. "In actual fact," he adds, "the rest of the community grants a subsidy to industry. With the hope of assisting the manufacturer to meet a part of his costs of production, the rest of the nation, in the dual capacity of its members as ratepayer and taxpayer, contribute approximately £30,000,000 annually toward the expenses of manufacturing business. Unhappily, that collective aid to meet an emergency has failed to remove the depression. What real force can then reside in the suggestion that the small rate-charge which remains is a formidable barrier to prosperity?"

Mr. Fairchild cites the case of a Lancashire mill, which employs 200 persons in weaving butter muslin cloth. On September 30, 1929, the premises were assessed at £701. Local rates being then 12s. in the £, the sum required by the rating authority amounted to £420 12s. In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1929, the rateable value was reduced to £175, while the consequential reduction in the rates payable brought down their amount to £105. In other words, the item in costs incurred by the rates-charge was reduced to one-fourth.

What the Ratepayer Gets

He proceeds to ascertain the distribution of that item in the list of costs—£105—over the ten million yards of muslin cloth produced in the year following the introduction of the derating system. For his total product the manufacturer received £72,684, or 1.74416d. per yard. The rates paid represented a percentage of 0.1444 on the selling price of the cloth; and the amount of rates paid per yard of cloth produced was 0.00252d., or the equivalent of one-third of a penny in the value of each twenty shillings' worth of cloth produced. The wage-roll of this firm records a payment of £25,000 annually, and the percentage of rates to wages is 0.42. "It is difficult," he adds, "to believe that so small a charge is a grave impediment to remunerative marketing."

The writer then proceeds to show what the Lancashire mill-owner receives in the form of civic services for the £105 contributed to the rates pool—services which directly assist in the economical administration of business. But the manufacturer also reaps advantage from the expenditure of those portions of the rates which defray a part of the expense of education, procure better houses for many thousands of the people, and not least of all, from that large item of public expenditure which subserves the general health, apart from the sanitary services. His productive costs would be menacingly increased but for the social efforts to reduce the discontinuity of the working time which arises from widespread sickness.

It is true that some trades receive more help than others from public sources. For example, under the derating of process machinery for which the Rating and Valuation Act of 1925 provided, the rateable value of certain premises occupied by printers was reduced by 32 per cent.; premises in the occupation of lead pipe manufacturers by 19 per cent.; and laundries by 18 per cent. On the other hand, buildings in use for the manufacture of motor accessories were reduced in rateable value by 5 per cent.; and engineers' premises by 4 per cent. only.

Rates Contribution Analysed

Again, it may be granted that as between one trade and another manufacturers do not receive equal benefit from the expenditure on roads or the scavenger's work. Nor does every industrialist derive the same advantage from the fact that the Government and the Local Authority jointly bear the expense of ensuring that every person who enters the manufacturer's service in youth shall be able to read and write. In some trades the capacity to read is required within narrow limits only; and in all but a few there is small demand for writing. "The point is of importance," the writer observes. "But since it is in dispute it can be waived without diminishing the force of the argument that the manufacturer gains by the expenditure of rates on the police and the fire brigade, on highways, scavenging, sewerage and sewage disposal, and on public lighting." He assumes that the whole of the £105 actually paid in rates by the Lancashire mill-owner was spent on services directly required by the latter's particular undertaking. The following table is based on that computation:—

(1) Necessary services provided by the local authority.	(2) Actual cost per annum £ s. d.	(3) Actual cost per week. £ s. d.
Police and fire protection	17 15 0	6 10
Highways	41 2 8	15 10
Scavenging, etc.	21 17 4	8 5
Sewerage and sewage disposal	11 13 10	4 6
Lighting	12 11 2	4 10
	£105 0 0	£2 0 5

	(4) Actual cost per employee Per annum s. d.	Per week d.
Police and fire protection	1 9.30	0.41
Highways	4 1.36	0.95
Scavenging, etc.	2 2.24	0.505
Sewerage and sewage disposal	1 2.03	0.27
Lighting	1 3.07	0.29
	10—6.0	2.425

Value of Local Expenditure

It is not unfair to ask whether the Lancashire mill-owner could obtain the same assistance at or near the same price from any other agency than the local authority. For 12s. 11d. weekly, by no other process, legal or beyond the law, Mr. Fairchild argues, could the producer of butter muslin cloth procure the scavenging, the sewerage, and the removal of the waste which his establishment entails. Under no system of personal contract could all the highways of his district be maintained in a condition necessary for the rapid movement of his goods at a weekly cost of less than a penny for each workman employed in his factory. "There are several senses," he concludes, "in which it can be said that the success of British industry rises or falls directly with the well-considered expenditure of local authorities."

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A SCOT CROSSES THE BORDER

(*Continued from page 255*)

woods where a huge fire had been kindled.

I'll never forget that camp fire. It defies description, for it must be *felt*. The leader greeted us thus: "Oye, Oye!" We replied "Oye, Oye!" Forthwith he led us in song—all the old favourites—"There's a long, long trail a-winding," "Oh, my Antonio," "Tipperary," "Pack up your troubles," "She's a lassie from Lancashire," "On Ilkley Moor," etc. How we made the woods echo! It was a fitting climax to an ideal camp, and as the fire burned low and "Auld Lang Syne" was sung with fervour, each person acknowledged the termination of a care-free, healthy and novel holiday.

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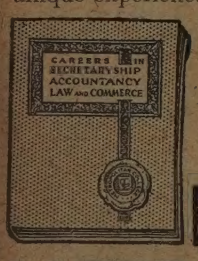

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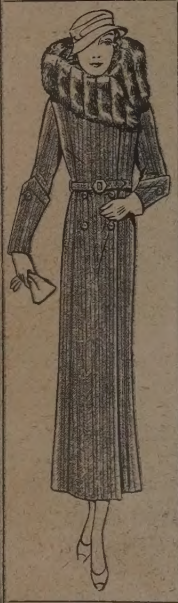

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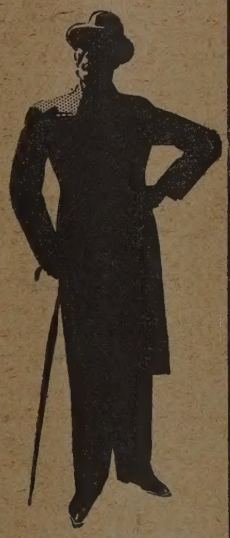

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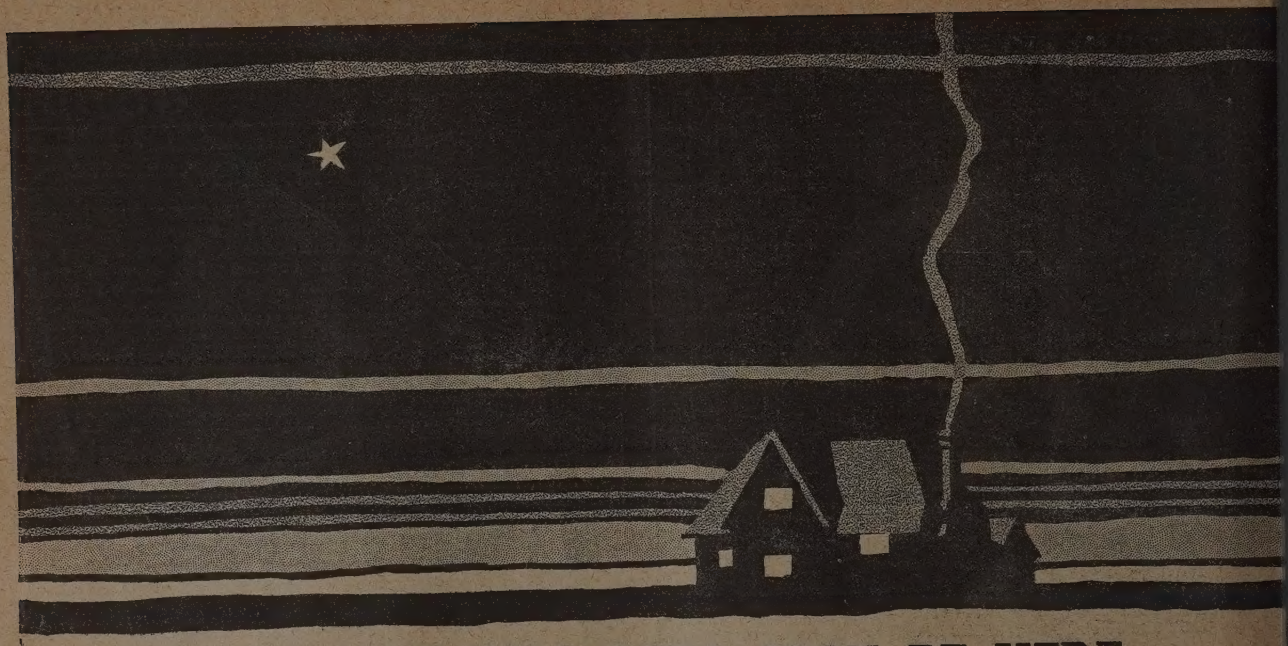

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